California GARDEN

May/June 2008 Volume 99 No. 3 $4.00

Beautiful Bromeliads

Enchanting Epiphyllums • Breaking Down Your Potting Mix • Ground Tested: Geraniums

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

May/June 2008, Volume 99, Number 3

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From the President

My reading of Floral history in "*The Garden*" (the name used by our founding members for their magazine), tells the story of how our concept of affiliate groups evolved. In the early years, horticulture enthusiasts and civic-minded financiers banded together to create and maintain the Floral Association. They met in each other's gardens, shared information and formed friendships that lasted a lifetime for many members. Our organization provided the first flower shows, garden tours and civic improvement suggestions in San Diego, with all members participating.

As the organization grew, members began to drift into special interest groups and eventually formed a variety of plant societies. These groups provided the opportunity for more people to join and learn about these special plants, especially residents new to the area.

Many of the articles contributed to *California Garden* over the years were written by leaders of the societies. They are the mainstay of 'Now is the Time' feature, which is a favorite with our members. Societies created county fair exhibits, held tours and flower shows. Several have been providing decorated trees for our annual December Nights display, which are crowd favorites.

In return, the Floral Association provides calendar listings in our magazine and ads for their special events at a reduced fee. We encourage them to attend the member meetings and to make use of the extensive library in the office.

One of the earliest "spin offs" was the Rose Society, which worked with Floral to provide tours during the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. Other groups joined forces for events such as Begonia hybridizing at Rosecroft, an important orchid convention held in San Diego and other admirable work. The Dahlia Society traces its birth date to 1937, the Begonia group to 1943 and both Orchid and the Camellia Society started in 1946. Geranium's date is 1972, Fern began in 1976 and Herb Club in 1993. For historical record, I'd love to learn the initiation dates of the rest of the plant societies and garden clubs. To date we have 30 plant societies listed in the magazine.

We also have 26 garden clubs as affiliates. As the county grew and the population disbursed, localized communities' new residents formed garden clubs to help each other while struggling to grow new plant species in a new climate. These clubs in the various communities worked to learn how to successfully garden in San Diego. Garden clubs hold flower shows, plant sales, garden tours, bus excursions and provide funds for their philanthropic efforts. Many give scholarships to the community college horticulture students. They also are creative contributors to Floral's December Nights display. The garden club programs featuring floriculture and horticulture information make a valuable contribution to the residents of our county. Both the garden clubs and the plant societies have been dedicated to the educational mission of the Floral Association and their efforts are greatly appreciated by Floral and the community.

We get many calls from people seeking information about specific plants or where to find gardening groups and are always delighted to recommend our wonderful affiliate societies and clubs.

We look forward to many more years of cooperation and collaboration with our affiliates as we all work toward improving our personal gardening skills and interests and sharing that information generously with others.

Kay Harvey

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Teacher: Kathy Taylor de Murillo

❑ **MAY 13, 2008** **Intermediate Floral Arranging, Part 2**

Flower arranging class for those with a basic background in floral design. Learn to make underwater and duo (two-sided) designs. Bring a large glass container, round or square, and one other large container. Bring tropical flowers (antherium, orchids, ginger, halleconia, bird of paradise, etc.) and succulents, foliage, curly willow, driftwood and palm fronds.
Cost: $25 members, $30 non-members
Teacher: Kathy Taylor de Murillo

❑ **MAY 20, 2008** **Intermediate Floral Arranging, Part 3**

Flower arranging class for those with a basic background in floral design. Learn to make a Functional Table Design for a breakfast tray in bed. Bring a tray, plate, bowl, cup and saucer, napkin, small container and a bunch of flowers from the market in colors that compliment your dishes.
Cost: $25 members, $30 non-members
Teacher: Kathy Taylor de Murillo

❑ **MAY 27, 2008** **Intermediate Floral Arranging, Part 4**

Flower arranging class for those with a basic background in floral design. Learn to make two types of Exhibition Table designs: One in a niche and one in a frame. Bring plates, cups, saucers, napkins, tablecloth, goblets, small easels or plate holders, candlesticks, etc. and a container that goes with your dishes. Bring flowers, foliage, etc. Frames will be available for purchase and may be ordered at previous class. Niches will be provided.
Cost: $25 members, $30 non-members
Teacher: Kathy Taylor de Murillo

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All classes run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers. Call Kathy Page 619-422-2845 or Kathy Taylor 619-921-1880 for more information about San Diego Floral Association workshops. To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

(For June classes, consult the SDFA newsletter, or call the SDFA office at 619-232-5762 for more details.)

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California GARDEN

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Black Beauties

Heirloom tomatoes embrace the dark side

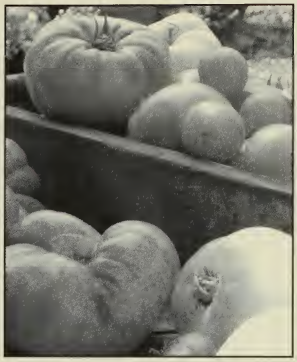


PHOTO: SCOTT DAIGRE

"Black" tomatoes are growing in popularity for the fifth year in a row, according to TomatoFest's recently released Top 10 list of heirloom tomatoes. The list shows that "black" tomatoes are gaining a positive reputation at produce markets, restaurants and with home gardeners, and are the "in" tomato to grow this year.

Gary Ibsen, owner of TomatoFest Garden Seeds *(www.tomatofest.com)*, an internet retailer of organic heirloom tomato seeds and grower of 600 varieties of heirloom tomatoes says, "It's not just red and pink tomatoes that steal the show on the Top 10 list anymore… 'Black' tomatoes are fast becoming the new 'red' tomato. They're the Cinderella's of the produce markets."

The top "black" heirloom tomato varietals included on the list are the 'Paul Robeson,' 'Cherokee Purple,' 'Black Zebra' and 'Black Cherry.' The top non-black tomatoes were 'Brandywine' (pink), 'Amana Orange' (orange), 'Marvel Stripe' (red and yellow striped), 'Julia Child (pink), 'Kellogg's Breakfast' (orange) and 'Aussie' (red).

As many know, "black" tomatoes aren't necessarily black in color. They can be a wide assortment of colors from deep purple to a bluish-brown. They can even be smoky mahogany with dark green shoulders. "The depth of colors seems to be encouraged by a higher acid and mineral content in the soil," said Ibsen.

Although native to Southern Ukraine, "black" tomatoes differ from "pinks" and "reds" in more ways than color. Ibsen explains that "black" tomatoes have a wonderful deep complexity of flavor. He compares them to fine wine, and says, "They have a big tomato flavor with a background of a complex range of flavors."

Even though they dominate TomatoFest's Top 10 list today, "black" tomatoes haven't always been popular. Ibsen remembers that when they first came into the market, it was hard to move them in stores. "People were afraid of their color, but once they tasted them, the consumer started demanding them," said Ibsen.

Ibsen has seen a jump in demand for the "black" tomatoes in China, Spain, Japan and the U.K. "This is exciting news because it shows that consumers are being more adventurous in selecting the dark varieties of heirloom tomatoes that only a few years ago were next to impossible to find in the marketplace."

Heirloom tomatoes are open pollinated varieties. Scott Daigre, owner ofTomatomania *(www.tomatomania.com)*, an online tomato seedling store, explains, "With an open pollinated seed you will get the same plant from year to year as long as the seed is viable. However, you can get slightly different results in different areas due to changes in the soil or climate." Since hybrids are crosses of two different varieties, the seed from them does not result in the exact same plant the following year.

Daigre agrees with the selections on TomatoFest's Top 10 list. "I think the TomatoFest list is quite representative. I think those are amazing tomatoes. We find nice success with most of them."

On the growing popularity of "black" tomatoes, Daigre says, "When 'Black Krim' hit the market in the early '90s it was quite the phenomenon. That was really the one that started the craziness. They are all hugely popular today as they do so well in many places in California."

"Some people describe the 'black' tomatoes as 'smoky,' which is new territory where tomatoes are concerned," Daigre adds. "The whole idea of a tomato that's mauve to chocolate colored is really interesting and different from the get go. Many of the black varieties also come from Russia, which heightens the exotic nature. Like in any industry, we want something different and unique. These are both and then some."

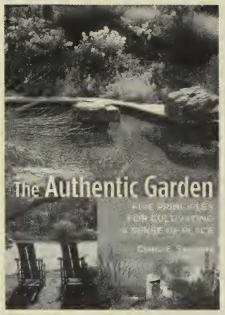
When asked if he would change any on the list, Daigre replies, "A few on the list such as 'Brandywine,' 'Amana Orange' and 'Julia Child' are not as dependable producers here as in other locations. They are phenomenal tomatoes, but they are not huge producers. They aren't going to fill up your tomato basket, which is what I think people want when they grow tomatoes."

Some good choices for the San Diego climate include: 'Aussie,' 'Cherokee Purple,' 'Champion,' 'Sungold,' 'Jaune Flammee' and 'Garden Peach.' Daigre adds that 'Early Girl,' 'Kimberly,' 'Carmello,' 'Tolstoi,' 'Matina,' 'Stupice,' 'Oregon Spring' and 'Sprite' are also great options.

Daigre has a few recommendations for beginner tomato growers: Start with a reasonable number of plants that you can manage well. Grow half heirlooms and half hybrids with small, medium and large varieties in each category and pay attention to lists like TomatoFest's Top 10 because they make sense and are a big help. —*Alyssa Holderbein*

The Authentic Garden

Join SDFA guest Claire E. Sawyers, Director of Scott Arboretum, at our June 17 general meeting



The San Diego gardening climate is both a pleasure and an anathema because it supports such a wide diversity of plants and landscape styles. As a result, gardens may have absolutely wonderful plants and structure yet still seem discordant or piecemeal. How do we create a landscape that works in harmony with our climate, history and daily life.

We are not the only ones who face this dilemma, but few have the background, training or experience to find the solution. We all seek to find ways to create a garden which communicates a sense of place.

Although she now gardens in Pennsylvania as the Director of Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, Claire Sawyers' horticultural career has spanned not only the U.S., but also Europe and Asia. Drawing on her knowledge from her vast array of American and foreign gardens, she identifies five principles that help instill a sense of authenticity in a garden.

They are: 1) Capture a sense of place; 2) derive beauty from function; 3) use humble or indigenous materials; 4) marry the inside to the outside; and 5) involve the visitor. As she shares her insights at our June meeting, we will learn how to create gardens that are true to specific time, place and culture—to capture and reflect an authentic sense and spirit, so that the garden, in turn, will nurture the spirit of those who dwell in it. We, too, can create gardens that are both deeply rooted in their surroundings and deeply satisfying to their creators and owners.

Claire Sawyers has been director of the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College since 1990. Her academic degrees are from Purdue University and the Longwood Graduate Program. She has worked in gardens in Japan, Belgium and France, as well as the Mount Cuba Center. She has many awards and serves as an accreditation commissioner for the American Association of Museums. Her photographic portfolio includes over 10,000 slides of plants and gardens. She is author of *The Authentic Garden, Five Principles for Developing a Sense of Place*, which will be available for sale and signing at the meeting.

This very special event is open to the public. It is free to members but will include a $15.00 charge for non-members. The lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. on June 17, 2008. Prior to the meeting an optional catered dinner is available at a cost of $12 for members and $30 for the lecture and dinner for non-members by paid reservation prior to Monday, June 16. For more information call 619-232-5762. *—Lucy Warren*

South Bay Botanical Garden

Ground Floor Volunteer and Support Opportunity

PHOTO: BILL HOMYAK

If you ever wanted to get in on the ground floor of a great opportunity, now is the time to join the newly forming South Bay Botanical Garden. The teaching garden at Southwestern College (*www.swccd.edu*) is taking a bold new step to establish itself as the only botanical garden in the southern portion of our county. They are organizing committees and volunteers to begin the process of becoming a leading destination for the South Bay area.

The first meeting was held on February 1, 2008 and attracted 24 people. The second event was a follow-up tour of the garden and potluck on February 23. Southwestern College instructor William Homyak provided the members with a tour of the gardens. The greenhouses, turf plots, vegetable garden, native garden, succulent garden, formal garden, ground cover plots and water features were all observed.

There is still a great deal of organizational work to be done, everything from developing a logo to printing stationery, to developing goals and docent opportunities. They are discussing a potential grand opening event and plant sale over Labor Day weekend.

Anyone interested in learning more or becoming involved in this exciting new venture can contact Southwestern College's William Homyak at *whomyak@swccd.edu*.

—Lucy Warren

Dig in!

'Kate Sessions' Unveiled

The Marston House And San Diego Historical Society Set To Introduce A New Geranium

Long-time San Diego Floral Association members and San Diego horticulture history buffs are familiar with the work of Kate Sessions. San Diego's leading horticulturist from 1892 to 1940, Ms. Sessions is known as "The Mother of Balboa Park." She introduced a variety of tree species and plants from diverse locales around the world to the San Diego area. She was a founding member of the SDFA, frequent contributor to *California Garden* and leader in the city's early beautification attempts. For all that and more, Kate Sessions continues to impress and influence San Diego gardeners.

On June 22, 2008, the Friends of the Marston House, in association with the San Diego Historical Society, will be hosting Family Garden Day in her honor. This special festival will include plant related displays, children's crafts, demonstrations, information booths manned by horticultural experts giving advice on numerous gardening topics and a plant sale of unusual geraniums/pelargoniums. (Most of the plants we commonly plant in our gardens and call geraniums, including the special varieties to be highlighted and sold at the event, are actually pelargoniums rather than the true geraniums.)

PHOTO: AMY R. WOOD

Family Garden Day will feature the first public presentation of the new Martha Washington geranium cultivar 'Kate Sessions.' The 'Kate Sessions' flower is in a unique color palette of purple and white and was specially propagated by Point Loma geranium breeder Jim Zemcik.

Prior to the event the Park Department will renovate the area surrounding the Kate Sessions statue (located in Balboa Park at the Laurel Street entrance) and will be planting the new variety in her honor. The new plant will be for sale at the event as well as 'Geranium George' (Marston), and the non-rusting, pest resistant 'Santa Maria Centennial.' In addition—although in short supply—the angels (miniature Martha Washingtons) 'JoAnne Weeks', 'Suzy Spafford' and 'Linda Zee' will be available.

The organizers anticipate that the Family Garden Day will be a major event, and urge everyone to come early and bring your family and friends. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marston House Museum, located at 3525 Seventh Avenue, San Diego. Admission is $6 for adults, $3 for children ages 6 to 17. SDHS Members will be admitted for free. For more information call, 619-232-6203, ext. 129. It promises to be a fun-filled event—come join in the festivities! *—Jim Zemcik and Gabe Selak*

Friend or Foe: Bougainvillea Looper

San Diego is a county full of transplants. In the summer of 2006, a particularly tiny transplant was discovered along the coast, a transplant that is giving gardeners fond of bougainvilleas new reasons to lose sleep.

The bougainvillea looper (*Disclisioprocta stellata*) is a one-inch long, green or brown, smooth-skinned caterpillar. You may know loopers as "inchworms," for their distinctive contract/expand mode of transportation; indeed, a "looper" is a worm that makes a raised loop with its midsection as it crawls. The bougainvillea looper grows to become a Geometrid moth called the Somber Carpet Moth. The moth doesn't feed on bougainvilleas, but does lay its eggs on the underside of leaves.

The eggs hatch into larvae (loopers), which feed on bougainvillea and other plants in the Nyctaginaceae, or Four O'Clock, family. The caterpillars tend to favor new shoots and leaves, eating from the edge of the leaf in and creating a scalloped effect, though mature leaves are not safe from hungry maturing caterpillars. Bougainvillea Loopers have been known to decimate entire shrubs. Rest assured, that while the damage is severe, it's cosmetic; the little loopers won't kill your plant, just make you ashamed to show it off to friends.

As mimics, loopers may be mistaken for a branch or stem at first glance. They feed at night. Young loopers can be controlled with regular doses of BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), though some mature loopers may be resistant; spray in the evening, when they're most active. The brave of heart can search for the caterpillars with a flashlight after dark. The squeamish can set up a birdfeeder nearby and hope feathered friends pitch in on pest control.

Keep an eye out for the bougainvillea looper as we head into the warm summer months, as these caterpillars are especially destructive from June through September. If you find any, and wish to help the county keep track of the caterpillar's spread, please call the County, Agriculture, Weights and Measures Entomology Lap at 858-694-3897 or visit their website at *www.sdcawm.org. —Amy R. Wood*

Garden Metamorphosis

Meditation on gradual landscape redesign

This is a great time of the year to look closely at your garden and reevaluate it. The magic of the garden's springtime lushness and beauty is starting to fade as we enter into our dry summer season. You may think about your relationship with your garden, and find yourself asking if a landscaping redesign is in order.

Gardens are always transforming and evolving. Recognizing this is essential in all garden design and maintenance. Proper garden maintenance includes constantly redesigning the landscape. This changing of the garden is often quite simple and done instinctively. Every time you buy a new flowering six-pack or prune a tree, you are redesigning your garden. However, there is also a more in-depth planned redesign you can undertake, and a change in the seasons is an ideal time to make a landscaping change.

Unless you intend to put in a whole new landscape, it is best to focus on one area at a time as you do the redesign work. A good place to start is where you hang out to relax in your garden, whether it be a rock bench, a hammock, a hot tub, a pool or an outdoor kitchen area. Plant some colorful summer flowering annuals and perennials. Then you may focus on some wishful concepts, such as creating an herb garden, a butterfly garden, a native plant garden or a fruit and vegetable garden.

The most important aspect of recreating your landscape is to realize how much time you actually have to spend maintaining your garden. Don't bite off more than you can chew!

As you plan the changes, consider which plants in the area, if any, you want to keep. These anchor plants will be key in your redesign as you choose color combinations and foliage textures. Try to create balance and harmony, or awe and drama, whichever you choose. Then when you have successfully transformed that part of your garden into a landscape masterpiece, you can ask yourself again "Now which area in my yard is most disturbing?"

This approach of transforming your garden one area at a time is a very easy method. It goes with the philosophy of not taking on more than you can handle. In several years you will have effectively metamorphosized your garden.

—John Noble

Home Sweet Home: *Roses*

A rose, is a rose, is a rose. That's what I thought when I moved to San Diego in May 1977. I grew up with roses. My parents won major flower show ribbons in Albany, NY. My great-grandmother's garden in Mt. View, NY, and my yard in suburban Chicago, overflowed with roses. Surely I'd have no problem growing roses in San Diego.

Unfortunately, it took one full year and much trial and error before I learned the tricks to growing roses in this beautiful weather.

That first winter, I prepared for cold weather. I cut my rose bushes back to two feet. I gently tied the shortened canes together. I mounded extra soil up one foot high around the base of each rosebush to protect the root system from alternate freezing and thawing. And I ordered Styrofoam "snow cones" from a catalog, ready to put them over the rosebushes for extra protection. Winter came… and went. It never froze.

I was determined to find the right varieties for my area. I learned roses with a great number of petals would "blast" open in the hottest summer sun and would never fully open when it was cool and damp. I discovered coastal fog encouraged some varieties to develop mildew, rust and black spot.

Soil in my first San Diego garden was filled with rocks and clay, so digging holes was a challenge. I learned to amend my soil by mixing in peat moss until it was pliable and drained well. I also learned to plant my roses so the knob at the base was just above the ground, rather than one to two inches below ground level, as I'd done in the colder parts of the country.

I walked the neighborhood and asked the names of roses I liked that grew well. Many neighbors gave me cuttings that I rooted. Other roses I ordered from local nurseries and from catalogs.

Here are some of the things I learned about their care. Plant roses in full sun, except in hot parts of this county where they need light afternoon shade. Roses need good air circulation and soil must drain well. We need to water regularly for best growth and mulch under and around rosebushes to help retain moisture. Fertilize throughout the growing season, especially for those roses that are repeat bloomers. Prune to thin out dead, old and weak growth. In December-January remove all leaves from roses and allow them to rest before new growth begins.

By my second year, at last I had roses that brought back fond memories of home (though not the same varieties). I was rewarded with a front yard garden filled with roses I could share, which often caused people to stop and admire before they walked or drove on their way. *—Dorothy Carroll*

Garden Conversations: Irises

Leon Vogel, President of the San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society discusses irises with *California Garden*

By Alyssa Holderbein

Leon Vogel's favorite flower, the iris, inspired the French *fleur de lis*. Mr. Vogel promotes interest in irises as president of the San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society, as well as being active in the Temecula Valley Garden club. At 89, he shows no signs of slowing down.

California Garden: How did you first come to grow irises?

Leon Vogel: My mother-in-law gave us a bowl of guppies when we moved into our first house. In a short time we had a basement full of them. She gave us an African violet and in a short time they filled a room and spilled into the basement. She then gave us some iris rhizomes and we now have about 400 and I feel like an irisarian. I'm glad she didn't give us an elephant.

CG: What was it that attracted you to irises? What makes them special to you?

LV: It is the only flower to my knowledge that you find yourself checking every day to see if it has bloomed. You go out first thing in the morning in your pajamas to see what opened up during the night. It is also very exciting when you hybridize irises. It is like seeing a new baby for the first time because no one has ever seen it before.

CG: Was there one person who influenced your interest and love of irises?

LV: My wife, Norma. She was raised with them. Her mother had lots of irises and they all shared the garden work.

CG: How many would you like to have?

LV: I'm full up. I don't have any more room in the garden. I also have them a little too close together. We've already ordered some for the fall delivery so we're going to have to get rid of some. The new ones are always amazing.

CG: What do people typically do wrong in caring for irises?

LV: We're finding that people typically give them too much of the wrong fertilizer or don't give them nearly enough of the right fertilizer. They need trace elements. There are about seven trace elements that are very essential for having the best flowers. They need lots of low nitrogen fertilizer, like a 6-20-20. Then they should spray with foliar fertilizer to get the maximum bloom. The richer the fertilizer, the healthier the plant. Irises also need at least half a day of sun to do their best.

CG: Are there special challenges to growing irises in the San Diego climate?

LV: San Diego has one of the most perfect climates for irises, especially for the ones that bloom out of season. People don't want flowers that only bloom once a year. Nobody can figure out what makes one bloom instead of another. When you have a clump of say, six rhizomes, maybe four will bloom this spring and two will wait another year. All of the plants had the same light, watering and fertilizer, but two decided to wait another year to bloom. I have a flower blooming every day of the year. It is nice to look out at Christmas and see some iris blooms. Frost does not stop the blooms of the re-bloomers.

CG: What is your favorite iris?

LV: I don't have a favorite. I say there is no such thing as an ugly one. The only bad looking iris I've seen was a hybrid that I saw in 1926. All the hybrids are so pretty now. There is no telling where this space-age thing is going to go.

CG: What would you recommend for a beginner?

LV: The tall bearded iris is the easiest to grow. They are nearly impossible to kill. The biggest thing you need to watch for are aphids, little bugs that feed on plants. There is some insect garden control that helps. Irises are tough. Just give them fertilizer, water and keep the bugs off of them and they'll grow.

CG: Do you have an iris "hero?"

LV: No. We have several great hybridizers. I greatly admire their work. There is an especially great one in Australia named Barry Blyth.

CG: What books or other sources of information would you recommend for people to learn more about irises?

LV: I recommend speaking to people at iris shows or sales. They are always very knowledgeable and will help to answer all of your questions.

CG: Besides enjoying irises, what are some of your other interests?

LV: I am president of the San Diego Iris Society. I sponsor events and I write the newsletter. I also enjoy African violets. I usually keep 60 or 70 of them.

"It is the only flower to my knowledge that you find yourself checking every day to see if it has bloomed. You go out first thing in the morning in your pajamas to see what opened up during the night."

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

epiphyllums

PHOTO: SANDRA CHAPIN

Epiphyllum 'Norma Cantiño'

Enchanting Epiphyllums

Easy to Grow and Impossible to Ignore

By Sandra Chapin

My husband and I started our love affair with epiphyllums about 15 years ago, when we strolled through Balboa Park on Mother's Day and found ourselves in the midst of a sale and show of epiphyllums. Whether you call them jungle cactus, orchid cactus, epiphyllums or just plain epies, the awesome array and variety of colors, sizes and shapes of the blossoms on these wonderful plants will take your breath away.

Epiphyllums are hybrids of the epiphytic cactus species that grow under the jungle canopy of trees in the Central and South American rainforest. The Greek word *epi* means placement at, on, over, beside, among or on the outside. Thus, epiphytic plants such as epiphyllums, orchids, bromeliads and the like grow without rooting into their host or drawing nutrients from them. You may see them growing on other plants or objects, but their root-like projections are for stabilization rather than nourishment.

While epiphyllum hybrids encompass a near-rainbow of colors, most of the species have white blooms, although a few have pink or red blooms. Most species bloom at night. In their natural habitat epies grow in the forks of trees or crevices of rocks, their roots nestled in the decomposing leaf matter. Moisture is obtained from the frequent rains and humid air. The air circulation high in the trees brings a continuing stream of nutrients to the growing epies. In Greek, *Epiphyllum* means "upon the leaf." The blossom appears to emerge directly from the leaf. In fact, epie plants do not have leaves. What many call leaves is a wide thick stem or branch.

Hybridizers have been able to produce a startling variety of epiphyllums by crossing the species and introducing other related cactus. Early plant explorers took species to Europe in the early 1800s where hybridizers started making crosses. Since the beginning of the 1900s there have been many hybridizers in Southern California. Over time, they have changed and improved various characteristics of the plants.

Changed and improved characteristics are numerous. Sizes of blooms run the gamut from one inch to more than a foot. Colors range from pure white and white with traces of yellow, green, pink in them, to vivid reds, yellows, oranges, pinks and purples. There has never been a blue epi. Hybridizing has created more dramatic color patterns and combinations of colors. First consider hues, tints and shades of the colors in exquisite tones and combinations, such as bright pink petals shading to intense magenta. Petals may vary in color pattern to demonstrate stripes, marbling and other variegation. Petal and flower shapes have also been modified by hybridizers. Petals can be narrow or wide, pointed, rounded or blunt. The flower can be cup and saucer shape, flat or funnel shaped.

Epiphyllums typically bloom from April to June, however, a few varieties bloom off-season. The smaller blooms especially may bloom several times a year. It is not unusual to have a flower on the hybrid 'Harald Knebel' most of the year.

Growing Epiphyllums

We are lucky to live in San Diego County as this is really the hub of epiphyllum growing, with many enthusiastic collectors and growers. Epies are grown all over the world including Sweden, Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand and in most of the U.S., however, our frost-free Mediterranean climate, moderate rain-free summers and mild winters make them nearly care-free plants for us.

Epies must be protected from the frost if you live in one of the colder areas. They will briefly tolerate a few nights of 28 degree Fahrenheit weather, but prolonged exposure to cold will damage or kill them.

They also like humidity. The areas that have morning fog are ideal, but if you don't have that during the hot summer, a mister or occasional spray from the hose works great.

Epiphyllums need a soil that drains quickly. Most growers mix perlite into their potting mix. Each epi grower has his or her secret mix, however, most contain some combination of the following: potting mix, orchid bark or cocoa chips and perlite or pumice. Some growers add charcoal, blood meal, bone meal and slow release fertilizer. Adding perlite or pumice is a must for the quick draining soil that epies require.

Epies need fertilizer at least twice a year. In January or February, epies need a fertilizer for blooms. A fertilizer with no- or low-nitrogen is best. When you look on the package Nitrogen is the first number of the three hyphenated digits displayed, *e.g.,* 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 are typical general purpose fertilizers. Look for a low first number such as 0-8-8 or 2-10-10. After the blooming season use a balanced fertilizer such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 for growth. You may use a granular, slow release or liquid fertilizer. Many like to use a liquid as a foliar spray also.

Epies are also very easy to start from cuttings. Take a six to eight inch cutting of the stem. Let the cut callous over for at least a week. Then put two or more areoles into the potting mix. Do not water! When the cutting shows resistance when you give a slight tug, then you know roots have developed and you should start lightly watering.

If you start three cuttings of the same variety in the same pot, you will increase your chances of growing a blooming plant sooner. However, be certain they are cuttings of the same variety. Do not mix cuttings.

The plants need filtered light. They may be hung or placed on shelves under patio covers, in trees or under shade cloth or lathe. Remember you are trying to replicate that jungle tree canopy.

Starting Your Collection

Epiphyllum cuttings are available at the Plant Trader at the Wild Animal Park (*www.sandiegozoo.com/wap*). The shade house at the Wild Animal Park has in excess of 600 hybrids and a number of species on display. The display is certainly worth a visit during blooming season. The Wild Animal Park collection is cared for by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society (*www.epiphyllum.com*). SDES also has a sale at the Wild Animal Park the first weekend of May and during the fall garden festival. The fall garden festival will take place October 4-5, 2008.

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society is a non-profit society with the purpose of furthering the culture of epiphyllums. It meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado building at Balboa Park. The general meeting includes of a short business meeting, a speaker, a raffle, an opportunity to purchase cuttings and supplies and a time to socialize with other growers and learn more about this interesting plant. There is also a pre-meeting culture class at 7:00 p.m. in Room 104. Everyone is welcome to attend and hopefully join the society.

Additionally, don't miss our annual show and sale, "Epies the Pirates Treasure," on Mother's Day weekend, May 10-11, in Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. The cutting and plant sale starts at 9:00 a.m. on both days, while show doors open at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. You will see hundreds of the most fantastic blooms in the county. The artistically arranged displays will also appeal to children and non-gardeners, as well as those who live for plants.

Epiphyllums are easy to grow, have a huge variety in size, shape and color. They are fun and interesting to have in your garden.

PHOTO: SANDRA CHAPIN

Epiphyllum 'Lola Leah'

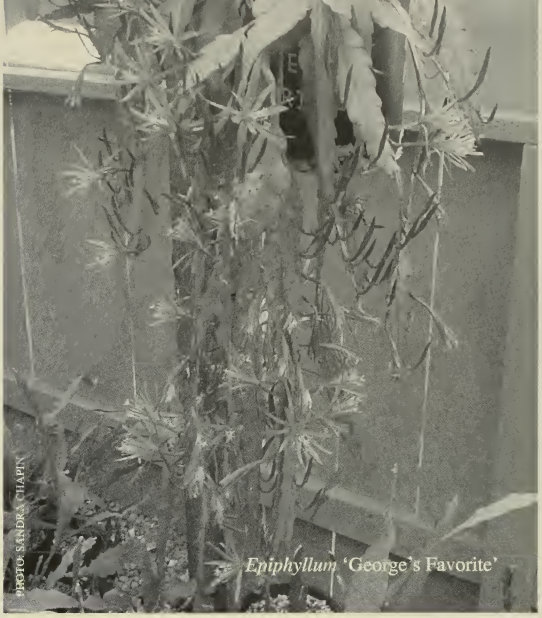


PHOTO: SANDRA CHAPIN

Epiphyllum 'George's Favorite'

Need More?

Other sources of plants and cuttings, as well as information regarding epies can be found in a number of places—here are our favorites.

- Epiforums – *www.epiforums.com*
- The Epi Yahoo Group – *http://groups.yahoo.com/group/epi/*
- San Francisco Epiphyllum Society – Caryle Wyatt, Membership & Newsletter, 415-821-3699, *cwyatt6991@aol.com*
- South Bay Epiphyllum Society – 1801 West 27th, San Pedro, CA 90732-4601
- The Epiphyllum Society of America – *www.epiphyllumsociety.org*, *info@epiphyllumsociety.org*
- Pacific Epiphyllum Nursery – 13929 Merced Ave, Baldwin Park, CA 91706, 626-780-3003, *mail@pacificepi.com*
- Rainbow Gardens – 1444 E. Taylor Street, Vista, CA 92084-3308, 760-758-4290, *rbgdns@aol.com*
- Epies by Pat – 247 Wilson Ave, Placentia, CA, 714-524-0904, *www.epies.adelphia.net*
- Mark Piette Epi Galleria – *www.epigalleria.com*, *mlpiette@earthlink.net*
- Epiphyllum World – 39620 Bliss Ct., Fremont, CA 94536, *epiphyllumworld@hotmail.com*
- Paul's Epiphyllums – 707-935-0416, Boyes Hot Springs, CA

Breaking Down Your Potting Mix

The what, why and wherefore for healthy container plants

By Lucy Warren

A good potting mix will nurture your plants by providing optimal water retention and drainage, aeration for healthy root development and accessible nutrients for plant growth. Because the potting mix is not self-sustaining, you will also need to provide additional nutrients as the plants grow. Plants permanently in containers will need to have the mix replenished periodically because the principal organic ingredients will break down and compact over time.

The Case for Potting Mix

Scene One: You've just found a lovely plant and want to grow it in this fabulous container. Because the plant is small and the container is larger, you'll need some extra material to fill up the pot.

Scene Two: You've decided to grow plants from seed and have several flats laid out ready to go, with your seed packets in hand.

So now you're ready to go out into the backyard and just dig up some dirt. But, wait, what do you know about your soil? Soil's two basic components are organic matter and extremely finely crushed rock (minerals). Without organic matter your have just rock, no matter how small the mineral particles. Without the rock you have any of various forms of organic material be it compost, manure, leaves, wood chips, whatever. But together you have the medium in which life can grow, soil! It has many properties and forms, but with air, light and water what we call dirt sustains plants.

PHOTO: MICHEL CORBEL

Unless you are a microbiologist, you don't know what your soil contains. It is a rich live material that includes many micro and macro-organisms breaking down the minerals, dead plants, eating each other. Most are good, but a few pests and diseases in the soil may be fatal to your plant or seedlings. To optimize your success in growing plants you want a sterile potting medium, free of pests and disease-causing pathogens.

Can you create potting mix from your regular garden dirt? Absolutely! You just need to sterilize the soil. This can be done by putting a layer of soil on cookie sheets in the oven. Set the oven to 180 degrees Fahrenheit and bake for about thirty minutes. This process will cause you to race out of your house coughing from the stench, provide reason to buy a new stove and a need to hire a professional cleaner to scour the kitchen. By then it may seem cheaper to purchase the potting mix.

Deciding to buy rather than create your own, you follow the helpful garden shop employee's directions to the gardening section that includes potting mixes. You are suddenly confronted with an extensive corridor, walled chest high with bags and boxes of mixes of all brands and formulations. Eek! How do you decide what's best for your precious plant? And, why are there so many mixes to choose from?

The sheer volume of choices seems to imply that this is a very complex decision. After all, if there are special mixes for roses, azaleas, vegetables and cactus, how do you select the right one for your canna when there is no specific mix for it?

A plant in a pot is in an alien environment quite unlike the ground. Its root space is limited and the medium is generally not soil. Some bags in the nursery are labeled "potting soil" but, strictly speaking, this is a misnomer. They are mixes of principally organic materials with some additional supplements, not the rich and complex milieu of soil.

As you get ready to pot your plant, think about it: If you were planting in the ground, you would dig a hole and put the plant in. Maybe you'd mix in some fertilizer or soil amendment. For special needs plants, you'd pay attention to those that need acid soils or those that need good drainage by adding some soil sulfur or planting on a slope. After that, the principal care for the plant consists of proper watering, fertilizing, pinching or pruning, monitoring and minimizing pests. This is not to say that the soil is not important, only that the soil or planting mix is just the start.

In the ground, the plant roots are able to break down microscopic crushed rock in the soil to provide for some nutrient needs. Those resources are not available in a pot, so they must be added for the plant to thrive. Even in soil, depending on your gardening method, you are constantly adding fertilizers or additional organic matter that will break down and nurture the plants.

Good potting mixes provide some nutrients, texture and drainage to meet plant needs. Manufacturers formulate different proportions of similar basic ingredients. To differentiate, they complicate the formulations by including additional materials, such as fertilizers, inorganic elements or specific microbes to help the plant along, and package their products in full-color packaging that seems to make each mix special.

Do you have to get a different mix for each of your different plants? Absolutely not for general garden plants: Your basic mix will probably be just fine for your tomato, zinnia, lavender, dahlia and fruit tree.

I spoke with Walter Andersen, whose Walter Andersen's nurseries (*www.walterandersen.com*) pot up hundreds of plants each year, from roses to fruit trees. Despite the plethora of potting mixes they carry, he basically uses one mix. His take is that every gardener has their own favorite mix and for most plants (other than those with special needs like orchids or cactus) whatever mix you use, the plant will do just fine.

His favorite mix is made by Sunshine (*http://sungro.com*). While he uses the "professional" mix, the principal difference between the professional one and the general basic mix sold to the public is that the professional mix has no instructions or pretty pictures on the package. Mr. Andersen likes it because it includes some fertilizer that helps the plants get started to good healthy growth. At the Point Loma nursery in early March, all of the roses were looking strong and healthy with abundant green leaves. The fruit trees were just beginning to bud out and had a similar healthy demeanor. They were all planted in the same mix.

From this great beginning, he said that they did not have to fertilize the plants for at least the first three months. That not only means beautiful strong plants to sell to an appreciative public, but also a big savings in labor and space to store the mix.

As to why there are so many mixes, he said, "It's simply for the manufacturers to sell more products." If the public sees different potting mixes for different plants, they'll buy a different bag of mix for each plant. As service providers, nurseries stock multiple products from several different sources to meet public demand for variety. When the stock includes three to five different potting mixes from three to five different manufacturers—all in cubic foot capacities—that adds up to a lot of space and choices. Don't be afraid to turn the bag over and read the list of ingredients!

What Goes into a Potting Mix

Understanding the ingredients that make up the mixes and the needs of different plants should help you to relax under the weight of the enormous decision of buying the perfect mix. Let's consider some of these ingredients, starting with the organic materials that absorb water and make it available to the plants. You won't need everything listed! The hope is that it will help you to understand what is on the label and what you are getting in the mix you buy. If you are really adventurous, you could even buy the ingredients and create your own mix!

Organic Ingredients

FOREST PRODUCTS—These may be listed generically or specifically, but the bulk of a planting mix consists of composted wood chips which may be ground more or less finely and composted or aged for unspecified amounts of time.

COMPOST—Organic material (possibly including forest products) that has undergone an oxidation process to break down the recognizable components of that material. The plant material decomposes, just like iron rusts, to a finer material. Because it has been broken down, the components of the compost are available for absorption by the roots of the new plant, providing low levels of a slow release source of minerals and fertilization and providing good texture. Pure compost becomes compacted, reducing aeration.

PEAT MOSS—A natural organic product from peat bogs that distributes water fairly evenly and keeps soil moist because of its absorptive qualities. As an additive it improves the texture of soil and its water holding capacity. It takes some effort to get the water to penetrate and absorb, but once it has, if you don't let it dry out, it will continue to provide even moisture to the plants.

WORM CASTINGS—Compost which has gone through the body of the worm. The organic secretions of the worms improve the texture of the mix (and soil, in general) because they make the particles stick together in large clumps, thus improving soil aeration. Pure worm castings, however, become one big clump and choke off air.

HUMUS OR HUMIC ACID—The fine brown particulate resulting from the decomposition of plant material comprised of basic organic acids helpful in contributing to good root absorption and plant growth. Humus occurs naturally in compost.

MANURES—Digested organic materials, the digestive process making the nutrients more available to plants. Manures must be aged or the uric acid component could burn plants, particularly with chicken manure. Steer manure may be too salty, due primarily to the diet of the cattle. Processed sewage sludge includes a manure component.

OTHER ORGANIC COMPONENTS—Potting mixes, particularly organic ones, may include other animal byproducts such as composted feathers (high in nitrogen), bat guano (manure under another name), kelp (helps soil to stick and aerate), rice hulls and mushroom straw. The proportions of these ingredients are probably small. It is commendable to recycle byproducts, but the chemical analysis (plant benefit) of these will be variable and along with exotic ingredients usually comes an exotic price.

MICRO-ORGANICS—Additional organic inoculants such as micorrhizal fungi (for root growth and efficiency) that may have additional benefits to plants, but they come at a price.

Inorganic Ingredients

SAND—Very large granule soil particles add some degree of aeration to potting mixes. Not generally found in large quantities in mixes due to weight.

PERLITE—Naturally occurring siliceous rock that has been heated and expanded, like popcorn. It is light and moisture retentive for optimal plant growth. It is also pH neutral and sterile, weed free. Helps soil drainage. Perlite actually floats and can be messy and difficult to hydrate, but it is a frequently used additive.

VERMICULITE—Has similar qualities as perlite but is heavier. When heated the granules expand out in an accordion like fashion, creating "worms" of material, so inspiring the name from Latin *vermi* meaning worms. Not the same as vermi-compost that is from real worms.

PUMICE—Lightweight igneous rock (like lava), with many air bubbles, thus making it fairly light. Used to increase the aeration and drainage in planting mixes.

Other Frequently Added Ingredients

GYPSUM—Naturally occurring mineral (calcium sulfate), the powdered form is watered into soils that are hard and have accumulated too much sodium. The gypsum replaces the sodium and loosens the soil for better tilth and water penetration so plants grow better.

SULFUR—Several forms, helps to balance the pH of the mix by making it more acidic. This is often the differentiating element in potting mixes for roses.

FERTILIZERS—Multiple forms to enhance plant growth.

SURFACTANT—Substance that makes water wetter and enables the soil to absorb water, even when dried out. With our dry climate, water penetration and absorption into the potting mix is critical.

So What Should You Buy?

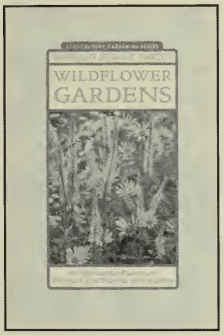
In essence, the choice of potting mix is up to you. Don't worry about a specific brand as there are many that are similar. Experts each have their own favorites, but the plants don't care what's on the labels. Unless your plant has special needs, almost any good mix will work. Keep it simple for yourself. Price is not always a great indicator of value, but you will pay more for organic mixes with fancy sounding ingredients. When it comes time to fertilize there is also a sea of choices; for potted plants, follow the directions and provide dilute solutions more frequently. I'm a great fan of dilute worm tea (I make it myself) and fish emulsion for general use.

Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!

Wildflower Gardens

By C. Colstrom Burrell
Brooklyn Botanic Garden Publishing Co., Inc.
$10 (paperback). 112 pages



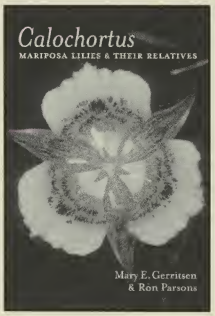
Though not written with Southern California in mind, there are many great things to learn from this slim guide.

Wildflower Gardens is an easy-to-read guide that shows the reader how to create any style of wildflower garden, including, Beds and Borders, Shade Gardens, Water and Bog Gardens, Meadow and Prairie Gardens, and Hell Strips (an area that is inaccessible to regular maintenance, has poor soil or is exposed to heat, cold, punishing wind or other extreme conditions) and Rockeries. This book enables the gardener to bring living color and the beauty of nature into his or her yard. We gardeners, by using wildflowers native to our particular region, preserve the character of our area. The garden portfolios are written by East Coast, Midwest and Pacific Northwest gardeners, but do contain very valuable design information helpful to Southern Californians. For example, Kim Hawks—writing the Beds and Borders section—shared that she wanted to encourage butterflies and birds into her garden and reduce turf to a much smaller area. Hawks, in sharing how she did this, tells how she unified her garden by designing walkways and beds simultaneously with an emerging path so that each bed began to relate to the others. Another tie-in she used was randomly repeating certain plants throughout the beds. The "signature" plants draw the eye from one bed to the next and create a unifying whole. She suggests that you, the gardener, always start with a plant that will survive in your existing soil. She used Purple Verbena and Artemisia, then incorporated compact or dwarf shrubs and small ornamental trees and vines adding interest and cutting down on the maintenance of an exclusively herbaceous border. She combined plants with sharply different foliage texture or form, and kept composition slightly off balance by using some plants in large numbers and others in arrangements of one or three. She also placed her fragrant plants near the edge of her beds where they could be enjoyed, and placed plants with white flowers or variegated foliage along border edges to illuminate the paths in the evenings. You'll want to become friends with Kim Hawks and the other portfolio authors to pick up on their design ideas, which you can use in your garden.

An encyclopedia of 60 stunning wildflower plants is featured also. The wildflowers are grouped according to their light requirements: shade, partial shade and sun, and are referenced to the USDA Hardiness Map. While many of the plants listed in this book are not in our Southern California zone, the design ideas work as well here as in any zone. – *Suzie Heap*

Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & Their Relatives

By Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons
Timber Press
$30 (hardcover), 232 pages



Enjoy the numerous pictures of the bulbous Calachortus in this beautiful book.

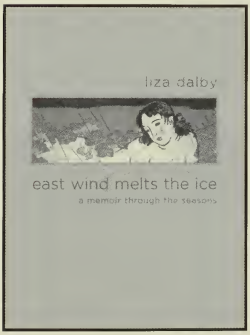
Beautiful to the point of appearing unreal, these native plants reflect the history of botanical exploration in the American West. Beginning with the 1804 Lewis and Clark expedition, species of these dazzling bulbous plants have been identified by many far-flung plant finders. Taxonomists have since organized them into four separate categories according to four distinct floral types. These include petals that face up or out or hang down, with shapes ranging from nearly flat to cup shaped or spherical. Their colors are subtle, with deep tones of gold, cream and red-purple predominating. Some petals are smooth, others edged with fine hairs Prized mostly for their showy blooms, they are actually herbs that grow from perennial bulbs. Nearly all are illustrated in color photos, some close up but many in situ. The authors present much technical data related to plant taxonomy, distribution and habitat and cultivation. Each

specific plant description includes references for further information. The final chapter on horticulture provides a practical guide to germinating seeds, since it appears that, except in special cases, the bulbs may be difficult to obtain from commercial growers. Fertilizing and soil mixes are also described.

This is a very complete survey of an extensive genus with many variations. Perhaps best known locally is Calochortus weedii, named for Amos Weed, a gold prospector in Julian who also collected wildflowers of the Laguna and Cuyamaca mountains. It is pictured in several variations and although it can be cultivated in containers or gardens, it appears that like most species of Calachortus, it is best appreciated in the wild. —*Marge Howard-Jones*

East Wind Melts the Ice: A Memoir Through the Seasons

By Liza Dalby
University of California Press
$25 (hardback), 346 pages



A unique look at how one author approached integrating Asian sensibilities with her California garden.

Most of the books in the San Diego Floral Association library are instructional manuals concerned with gardening or plant culture. However there is a small section of volumes containing more esoteric writing, actual literary works which expound upon the spiritual and aesthetic aspects of being in contact with the natural world as any gardener or horticultural enthusiast is. This book is in that category, a fusion of Asian philosophy, Asian mysticism, some literary history, some anthropological data and a personal diary—all aspects related to the natural world.

The author, Liza Dalby, is truly immersed in Japanese culture, having been the first non-Japanese geisha ever. Her account of that part of her life was the subject of her first book, *Geisha*. Now she lives in northern California and has become an avid gardener and outdoor enthusiast. In *East Wind Melts* the Ice, she transposes her considerable knowledge of the Asian world to what she observes and records about her present environment. She has transported a great deal of Japan to Oakland, and reading this book will inform the reader about both of these worlds. It will also shed new light on the reader's world.

The book's framework is the Japanese calendar. A five-season year is introduced, the fifth being "Center" which occurs from July 6 to August 5. Some of the natural events which occur during this season are: "Hot Winds Arrive (July 6-10);" "Crickets Come Into the Walls (July 11-15);" and "Rotted Weeds Turn Into Fireflies (July 21-25)." All of the chapters for every season have equally colorful titles and every natural activity inspires some creative process: perhaps haiku, perhaps a recipe, perhaps an essay, most likely something of interest to the reader.

To say that the fifteen-page index is exhaustive seems an understatement. Another feature of the book that speaks to its unique quality is the appendix, which is a four-column presentation of the 72 periods of the year in China, Japan and northern California. The labels for the columns are: Ancient China, Seventeenth-century Japan, Modern Japan and Northern California. The first entry under spring for both ancient China and 17th Japan is the book title, "east wind melts ice." However under Modern Japan, the entry is "prune fruit trees" and for northern California, "fiddleheads emerge."

Along the way, the reader is invited to ponder such things as "do worms actually sing" or "heaven and earth turn strict," which happens in the fall. It is a certainty that *California Garden* readers have not observed the hoopoe alighting in the mulberry, but one can read about it here. This book is definitely for those who want to expand their natural world beyond their yards and gardens. —*Jean C. Hughes*

San Diego County Orchid Society

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.

Novice Class:
6:30 PM, Room 104
General Meeting:
7:30 PM, Room 101

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2008 May Bus Tour and June Garden Tour

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May 21 – Huntington Bus Tour

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Cost: $15 pre-sale,
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Ticket Information

To purchase your tickets for the Bus and/or Garden Tour, please send a check to the San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego CA 92101-1684. Tickets for the Garden Tour will also be available for sale at these fine locations: Walter Andersen Nurseries, Mission Hills Nursery, Kniffing Nursery and Weider Nursery.

If you have any questions about either tour, please contact the SDFA office, at 619-232-5762.

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Timely tips to keep your plants happy throughout May and June

African Violets

Barbara Conrad

- Realize that some violets bloom more frequently than others. This is the time of year when most violets bloom.
- Jolt stubborn violets into bloom; use a "superbloom" fertilizer from a nursery. However, this may only be used several months at a time.
- Check plants with a magnifying glass under a lamp for tiny insects.
- Clean flower pots with disinfectant when you transplant or change soil.
- Watch for "tight" centers, indicating too much fertilizer or insects.
- Remove all blossoms when you feel more need for nutrients to concentrate growth on foliage. This will help maintain a healthy base for producing blooms later.
- Check your water supply as violets do not like 'softened water' as they prefer distilled or filtered water.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Repot when needed to one size larger pots, in light porous soil.
- Water as needed and wash off insects with water.
- Check tuberous, repot, add fresh soil and stake as needed.
- For bushier canes, pinch back plants once or twice and fertilize for blooms.

Bonsai

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

- Adjust watering to warmer and drier weather. Monitor repotted trees carefully for adequate watering.
- Repotted trees should be "overhead" watered, so foliage, branches and trunk are wetted.
- All other bonsai need to be wetted down on a regular basis as well, especially junipers to avert spider mites.
- Spray for insects as needed. Use systemic sprays only as a last resort; aphids and mites can be controlled with less toxic insecticides.
- Pinch back deciduous trees on a regular basis, and elms on a weekly basis if possible.
- Vigorous growing deciduous trees, such as trident maples, zelkovas may be defoliated in June and subsequently repotted. Repotted trees need to be in the shade for at least three weeks.
- Pinch back junipers at regular intervals.
- Cut candles on black pines by the middle of June.
- Fertilize all trees sparingly but consistently. Fertilize acid loving trees, such as pines and azaleas, with acid-loving fertilizers.
- Place trees to receive optimal sun, avoiding locations with full sun around 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- Rotate trees on a regular basis—weekly is best—to maintain proper shape.

Bromeliad

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Fertilize by spraying with a water-soluble fertilizer, such as Miracle-Gro or any other that is high in acid, using half the recommended strength on the label. In addition, you may spread Osmocote fertilizer formula 14-14-14 over the soil, using one teaspoon per six-inch pot. Osmocote will last for three to four months. Bromeliads do not like fish emulsion.
- Start watering a little more often as the weather is warming up, making sure not to over-water the potting media as bromeliads do not like to have soggy roots.
- Protect your plants from the hot summer sun. Suggested material is shade cloth, corrugated fiberglass or any material that will allow plenty of sunlight.
- Start making new plants by cutting offsets when they are one third to one-half the size of a mother plant. Pot them in a porous medium.

Cacti and Succulents

Joyce Buckner, The Plant Man Nursery in Old Town

- Repot your cacti and succulents. Late spring is the best time of year to repot and a great time of year to create succulent dish gardens.
- Choose containers with adequate drainage. Unglazed clay pots lose moisture rapidly, often drying from the sidewalls, leaching nutrients away from the center. Ceramic pots that are glazed inside, as well as outside may hold too much moisture for many cacti and succulents. Drainage holes need to be at the lowest point of the bottom of the pot. Avoid using saucers, unless you live in an extremely hot/dry area. Pots that are unglazed on the inside and with "legs" giving drainage a bit of clearance, are the best for succulent plants.
- Do not block drainage holes with broken pottery or rocks. Instead place a piece of screen (fiberglass/plastic) in bottom of pot covering all drainage holes. This will keep the soil in, and still let the water out.

- Use a light porous soil mix. Soil should not contain any decomposing material that may cause rot. Tightly squeeze a handful of soil in your fist. If soil clumps together, it needs more pumice, perlite or crushed lava stone to insure proper drainage.
- Do not water plants prior to transplanting. Cactus and any cactus-like euphorbias should be kept dry and protected (filtered light) for about a week, maybe more, before watering. Water succulents thoroughly immediately after re-potting.
- Water thoroughly and allow soil to get fairly dry between waterings. This promotes good root growth and will produce a stronger, healthier plant.
- Be careful not to sunburn newly potted plants. Gradually acclimate them to their new location. Cover with piece of window screen for a few weeks if containers are located in strong light/full sun.

Dahlias

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Feed with low-nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.
- Spray weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips and aphids. Try systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.
- Water when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.

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- Plant new varieties and give regular care for growing.
- Be sure to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.
- Pinch out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

Epiphyllums

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllums Society

- Prune plants to shape by cutting at a 'node' or close to the soil line. Take cuttings for planting after flowering.
- Bait for snails and slugs. Try Sluggo or Deadline. Use ultra fine (Summer) horticultural oil for scale.
- Make sure that the buds have room to open. Wilted flowers will drop or may be cut just above the branch node.
- Don't move budded plants. The buds may drop.
- Make sure that the plant labels/tags are still in good shape and legible.
- Start new cuttings. Repot plants as needed.
- Do not allow to plants dry out. Keep soil damp, but not wet. Proper potting mix will help here.
- Give plants a balanced feeding at normal intervals. We like three-month time release types.
- Stake long, spindly growth. Many epis do well on trellis.
- Protect foliage from the hot summer sun. The more prevalent a cooling afternoon breeze, the more sun is tolerated.

Ferns

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Finish removing old dead fronds.
- Water frequently as most ferns are starting full growth now. Try to keep humidity up.
- Fertilize with half-strength, high-nitrogen liquid or slow release pellets.
- Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Keep looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
- Watch for Giant White Flies. Best treated by wiping off egg spirals.
- Collect and sow spores. Some new ones may be available soon.

Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Check citrus and other hosts of diaprepes root weevil for semi-circular notches along the edges of new leaves. Visit *www.sdcawm.org* for photos and quarantine information. Call 800-491-1899 to report possible infestation.
- Irrigate thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning one-third of the distance from the trunk to the tree's drip line and extending out beyond the drip line a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least two feet deep (about three inches of water on a loam soil).

- Remove grass and weeds from soil under the tree's canopy.
- Apply a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from trunk to protect trees from crown rot.
- Complete thinning apples, pears and stone fruit after "June drop."
- Remove any suckers growing from rootstock (below the graft union).
- Wash trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew and pests like aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.
- Spray walnuts with carbaryl ("Sevin") when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control coddling moth larvae (wormy nuts).
- Control ants, which protect aphids and other sap-feeding insects; visit *www.ipm.ucdavis.edu* for Pest Notes on Ants and other garden problems.

Herbs

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Clean up your garden after spring growth.
- Pull out winter annuals such as borage and calendula.
- Prune back the perennial herbs Mexican marigold and rosemary.
- Plant basil, cayenne, parsley, valerian, feverfew and chamomile.
- Harvest Yerba mansa, mint, elderberry flowers and lavender blossoms.
- Steam fresh nettle leaf.
- Make a healthy salad with dandelion greens, French sorrel, dill and basil.

Irises

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

- Allow cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting of give a light dusting of soil sulfur. They may be placed in a vitamin B solution for a while before planting.
- Check to see if all the iris labels match their name (check bloom description).
- Cut the bloom stalk near the ground when done blooming.
- Feed heavily (tblsp. per rhizome) with 6-20-20 or similar mix when bloom season is over.
- Do not neglect to water enough to keep them growing.
- Check for aphids near the rhizomes, also for leaf rush.
- Have bed prepared for planting and transplanting. Work humus, soil sulfur and some decomposed manure into the soil before planting.
- Feed spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.
- Keep watering all the irises that are still blooming.
- Feed Siberians after blooming with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.
- Feed Japanese irises with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

Native Plants

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Reduce watering. Most established native plants could go three to four weeks between watering. Riparian natives can be watered once or twice a week. At least once a month, get out the hose and give your shrubs and trees a quick shower to say hello and wash off the dust.
- Harvest the seeds of the wildflowers.
- Pull out or weedwhack the wildflowers after they dry up.
- Mulch with shredded bark or gravel any bare earth around plants.
- Keep planting at a minimum until next fall.
- Focus on your Matilija Poppy flowers. This "Queen of the Natives" likes to show off in late spring.
- Make a native floral arrangement for yourself or for some friends.

Orchids

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Enjoy reed-stemmed Epidendrums, which should have been in flower for the last couple months and will remain so for a few more months.
- Construct shadecloth barriers if you have too many plants to protect, or bring plants under the eaves of your house to protect from sun damage.
- Finish any repotting that you've been procrastinating about (be sure to soak the media first, this late in the season).
- Water all plants more as they increase their rate of growth.
- Start watering mounted plants extra to compensate for their lack of moisture retention.
- Enjoy your Phalaenopsis, as many of the hybrids will be finishing their blooms (while many of the species will be just starting) and look for spikes on Vandas.
- Watch for sun damage as temperatures get increasingly hotter.
- Think about taking indoor plants outdoors for the summer, so they can benefit from the moving air and temperature changes (be careful of giving them too much light when you do this).
- Look for insect infestations and spray plants to prevent viruses from being spread by insects.
- Enjoy the last of the Dendrobium blooms and the first of the Sobralia blooms, as well as the Cattleya season, which will be in full swing. Many Encyclias bloom this time of year, too.
- Scrupulously water your terrestrial orchids, which will tell you how much water they need by how fast they grow.

Pelargoniums

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Let your plants perform. Avoid unnecessary pruning or cutting.
- Continue removing dead, older and/or damaged leaves to prevent the formation of molds or fungus. Be especially watchful for geranium rust and institute a program of prevention including removal of affected leaves. Treatment with a non-sulfur-based rust inhibitor/eradicator such as

Immunox should prevent outbreaks. Sulfur-based rust products are ineffective on geranium rust.

- Continue a steady water cycle. Many geraniums will drop their lower leaves and quit blooming if they get too dry. To maintain good foliage and bloom symmetry, keep the soil moist. Avoid getting the foliage wet.
- Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply on two-week intervals.
- Deadhead as soon as blooms pass their peak. This will encourage new blooms and keep plants looking fresh all season.
- Continue a pest-prevention program. This is the time of year to pay special attention to your proactive program to guard against whitelfy, budworm and aphids. Keep your yard free of weeds as this is where many pests that infest your plants get their start. Modern insecticides work instantly and are effective for two weeks or longer. Use a product that contains both an insecticide and fungicide. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and keep preventative control on a steady, continuous schedule.
- Protect plants from severe sun damage. Keep pots out of full sun. Protecting larger pots by surrounding them with pots of shorter growing annuals may help keep them from damage.
- Continue to rotate pants to keep them well-shaped and covered with blooms.

Plumerias

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Move potted plants from protected winter areas to warm, full sun.
- Start watering and fertilizing with a low-nitrogen fertilizer like 3-12-12.
- Take cuttings and prune; prune only to shape the plant.
- Repot plants and "top up" larger plants; this is to remove some of the soil from the top and replace it with a fresh mix of one-half cactus mix, one-fourth #3 perlite and one fourth wormgold plus. Keep soil at level as before.
- Expect first new blooms from last season's remaining inflorescence.

Roses

Al Heck, San Diego Rose Society

- Enjoy the peak blooming season and evaluate your roses.
- Deadhead the stems and canes when blooms are spent. Cut back to where you want the replacement growth to start, remembering that new canes can never be a greater diameter than the diameter of the cane from which they sprout.
- Control the Botrytis fungus, also known as "blossom rot," showing up as brown dead spots on the blooms. Control is important because Botrytis can develop into Botrytis Canker, also known as "cane death" or "die back," to the point where the entire plant can die. Some fungicides labeled for Botrytis control are Compass, Cleary's and Mancozeb.
- Protect new growth emanating from the bud union or the large canes at the base of the rose. These "basals" will ultimately replace the major older canes that you may want to prune away in December/January. Without basals, you're stuck with the existing canes, which will gradually become less productive.
- Water your roses well as the seasonal heat increases. At this time of year, roses need about one inch of water twice per week, no matter how it is applied. Roses in pots need more because there is less soil to hold the water.
- Control powdery mildew by either washing the bushes with water spray daily before 10 a.m. or spray with a powdery mildew fungicide in accordance with instructions on the label. You can also restrict your roses to only those varieties that resist powdery mildew.
- Feed your roses and your soil microbes well. A balanced food regimen would include about half inorganic fertilizers and half organic fertilizers. Organic fertilizers and mulch feed the soil microbes, who in turn help feed the roots. Inorganic fertilizers bypass soil microbes but provide micronutrients that roses need.

Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Plant warm-season crops, requiring warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumbers, gourds, luffas, melons, squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflowers, tomatoes and tender herbs.
- Plant pumpkins in early June for Halloween.
- Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.
- Apply nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when corn is six inches tall and 24 inches tall; when cucurbits begin to produce runners; when eggplant, peppers and tomatoes begin to bloom (and again a month later); and beans, for a month after planting or when runners start to climb.
- Feed with nitrogen fertilizer for every 10 feet of row, apply one-third to one-half cup of ammonium sulfate or one-fourth cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants and then irrigate thoroughly.
- Check plants for pests. Spray or dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are one-foot tall to control russet mites and powdery mildew. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect from cutworms.
- Visit *http://vric.ucdavis.edu* for more information about growing vegetable crops.

Beautiful Bromeliads

Plants for All Persuasions

By Greg Asbagh

Gardeners including myself are very opinionated lot about a lot of things including what gets planted in their lot. You're a rose person or you're not. You're a cottage gardener or you're not. You're a palm lover or you're not. It goes on and on.

As an aficionado of tropical gardens, the oft heard objection I hear is, "There are not enough flowers in tropical gardens it's just foliage and green" to which I reply, "And, the problem is?"

Seriously, nature tends towards equilibrium, tranquility and peace, and she has a solution to bring the two sides together to work across the aisle. Enjoy flowers? Enjoy exotic foliage? Mother Nature created a plant to fill the breach and act as an arbitrator between both sides. That arbitrator is known as a bromeliad. There is an almost endless array of species, varieties and cultivars, and I've never seen anyone able to resist their charms when presented with them. As a bonus, many have the exotic, waxy, long-lasting flowers that often last for many months.

Bromeliads, or broms for short, comprise one of the largest plant families (*Bromeliaceae*). They're relative newcomers in the evolutionary scheme of things. They are very adaptable, having colonized the neotropics from sea level to 12,000 feet. They can be found in climates ranging from desert to humid rainforest. For this reason, they are suitable for most landscape uses.

Many bromeliads make fine additions to the desert, woodland and Mediterranean-style gardens, as the bromeliads' spiky leaves (many of which are blue-green in color) will blend right in. Famous landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx popularized the use of bromeliads and daylilies in modernistic designs. Perhaps in taking cues from the iconoclastic ideas of Christopher Lloyd, traditional English gardeners are embracing these versatile plants and are planting them where flax or lilies might have gone before. I'm not exaggerating when I write that there is a bromeliad for every conceivable garden scheme.

Luckily for us, most broms are undemanding and can be planted almost anywhere. In most cases, they'll pup and multiply to the point that after a few seasons, you'll have enough to give away.

Foliage comes in every color and shade in the rainbow with the exception of deep blue, while their flowers and bracts do come in every color. The leaves vary from hardened, spiny affairs that can tear an ungloved hand to shreds, to soft, spineless structures harmless to the touch.

Most broms abhor fertilization and simply rinsing their rosettes with plain water once every 7-10 days is all the care they usually require. Nutrients come from detritus or any other organic debris that may fall into the water. The key to success with them is to find the right plant for the right environment and this is critical not to over water.

Guzmania 'Hilda'

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Most broms are epiphytes (air plants) and rosette shaped for the purpose of trapping water in their "cup." With the notable exception of *Puya*, broms are epiphytic so roots normally serve to just anchor the plant. Some believe that bromeliads are parasites, but this is false—they only use their roots to hold, not extract nutrients from the host plant. In many cases, if a plant falls onto the soil, the roots will shift gears, turn softer and grow nutrient absorbent airs in order to obtain sustenance the way other plants do. If you plant an epiphytic bromeliad in the ground, it will need well-drained soil otherwise it will rot.

Talk about water wise, in coastal microclimates some genera can even get by ambient humidity, only needing simple grooming to eliminate older parts of the plant. Many people grow bromeliads in potting mix similar to that used for orchids. I set the pot into the ground and mulch around it to disguise the plastic. Of course, you can also choose to mount the plant in a tree or on a piece of driftwood.

Shade-Loving Bromeliads

The first stop to find bromeliads is in the supermarket. You'll find both edible bromeliads (pineapples) in the fruit section and inedible ornamental flowering plants. The most common species of ornamental "grocery bromeliad" is *Guzmania*. These are tank bromeliads (rosette-types) with smooth, green strap-like leaves. Some hybrids are also variegated. Always sold in full bloom, the eye-catching modified bract-like leaves display yellow orange red burgundy white and mixtures of colors in between. The flowers are nestled in the bracts more modestly.

Of the common bromeliads, *Guzmania* are perhaps the most cold-sensitive. Most originate in a low-light and shady habitat, which means that protecting them from cold with overhead canopy is natural for them. Most bromeliads look best as massed plantings and *Guzmania* especially look attractive massed behind a raised bed lined with black lava rock. At a local rockery, I was able to get about 150 lbs of large stone (about eight inches average size) for about $15. I recommend leaving the plants in the mix and pots they came with, setting the container at soil level and covering with mulch to disguise the layout.

A drawback against growing *Guzmania* in San Diego outdoors is that the blooms are erratic. I find they bloom annually in my Leucadia garden. If you have a water feature, the extra humidity will help. One trick to force a bloom is to place the plant in a bag with half an apple for a week. The ethylene gas from the apple will trigger the bromeliad's bloom. I also find that leaving them alone and letting them grow in clumps will be sufficient for flowers. Even when they aren't in flower, they resemble a cross between agapanthus, liriope and daylilies—except they love the shade.

The second commonly available bromeliads are from a genus known as *Vreisia*. These originate from similar shady habitats as *Guzmania*. Like *Guzmania*, they are also tank bromeliads, collecting their water and nutrients in the cup formed by their leaves. Unlike the *Guzmania*, most members of this genus can handle a bit more sun, especially near the coast and are much hardier. *Vreisia* have more colorful leaves with variegation, patterns and colors that are kaleidoscopic. Their long lasting lobster-tail, waxy flowers are usually held on stalks three inches to two feet above the plant and are unbelievably more colorful than the leaves. They adapt well to terrestrial culture but require more rinsing as their larger leaves tend to capture more water. There are other shade tolerant genera but these are the primary two you'll find.

Sun-Tolerant Bromeliads

Some of the more sun-tolerant genera include *Aechmea*, *Puya* and *Ananas*.

Ananas comosus is the common pineapple. Most people aren't aware that they've eaten and enjoyed Bromeliaceae's most famous representative. Contrary to conventional wisdom, you can grow and eat your own pineapples in San Diego if you live in a frost-free microclimate. The challenge is finding the heat they need to ripen properly and deterring the fauna that will discover the fruit are ready before you do.

If you wish to grow pineapples and have yet another reason to brag to your Midwestern relatives about our wonderful climate, it's simple. After finishing off the store-bought pineapple that you ate at your last party, save the leafy top and a bit of the flesh attached to it. Let it dry for a few days. Then set it on a loose potting mixture (again, like orchids) of redwood bark and organic matter. Like other bromeliads, you will water the rosette; any overflow water will work into the soil. The flesh will root-anchor the plant, which will grow for about two years before fruiting. This compares to about one year to 18 months in Hawaii. Once the fruit appears, your pineapple will grow and ripen relatively quickly.

The challenge in growing pineapple is to place the plant in the warmest location you can give it. Some growers keep them in black 15-gallon containers to increase heat; some even use black plastic to increase the soil temperatures. If you have a south-facing slope, group them in masses and mulch with black cinder or Mexican beach pebbles and you'll have a nice vignette of Hawaii, sans the red clay.

You've probably seen *Aechmea* but never knew it. The rosettes have wide, blue-gray strap leaves with distinctive deep pink inflorescences and are commonly sold at the supermarket. These particular plants, *Aechmea fasciata*, grow easily and thrive on neglect. Stick them in a shady corner where they can catch any water that might fall their way and before you know it, you'll have the same pink flowers popping out of nowhere.

Many *Aechmea* are native to dry, rocky areas of Brazil, and are exposed to extreme conditions. This makes some species, such as *Aechmea recurvata*, ideal for the xeriphytic garden. These pistachio green bromeliads turn red in full sun, and rainbow-hued in part sun and shade. Another species, *A. blanchetiana*, is the familiar one seen in Honolulu front yards that resemble flames. There are hundreds of varieties and species of *Aechmea*, so you will not be disappointed. As a rule, they need full sun on the coast and partial shade inland to develop full color. Also, be cognizant of the spines on the leaf margins.

Is there a part of your garden that needs serious protection? The *Puya*, native to Mexico and our Southwest, might possess the nastiest spines in the bromeliad family. They pup readily so if you are not careful, the cute two-inch plant you plant today will become an impenetrable six-foot hedge in a few years. There are excellent displays of these narrow-leafed bromeliads with their other-worldly blooms, at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, CA (*www.huntington.org*). *P. venusta* with its dramatic violet and magenta blooms above gray-green leaves is at home there, as well as the largest of all the bromeliads, *P. raimondii*, 10 feet in height and another 30 feet in bloom. These are all very hardy plants and tolerate extreme dry conditions.

Sun-Shade Adaptable Bromeliads

Need a great ground cover for a tropical garden that can handle sun or shade? Look no further than the bromeliad genus *Neoregelia* or neos for short. These popular plants have been heavily hybridized; you'll be lucky to find a plant without a playful name in quotes on its tag. 'Pink Sensation', 'Bird Rock', 'Burnished Copper', 'Kilauea Red' and 'Sexy Pink' are just the beginning. Neos are happy in full sun to partial shade, but their light needs will depend on the species/variety.

Though epiphytic in nature, neos adapt easily to terrestrial culture. They are tank bromeliads (rosette) and range from a few inches to a couple of feet across. Most pup at ground level, but there are a few, such as *Neoregelia* 'Fireball', that send stolons vertically as well as horizontally. This creates dramatic vertical effects on containers, as well as anything else they can lean against. The flowers, contained in the rosette, are small, usually lavender and insignificant. The strap-like leaves are the reason to plant them. Colors range from near black with gray-stripes to white with green stripes and everything in between except blue. Crosses with *Neoregelia carolinae* usually feature a red to pink blush in the center. There are a few hybrids that literally look fluorescent in sunlight.

As with Vreisia, neos readily hold water in the center so a weekly flush of clear water is required. Neglect this step and the plant smells "ripe" (to put it nicely) plus you will have a mosquito nursery on your hands. However, if you are a frugal gardener, neos will reward your spendthrift ways handsomely. One plant will turn into three in no time and soon you will have enough to create exotic-looking beds with this colorful genus.

Now we arrive at the prototypical "air plant"—*Tillandsia*. In fact, air plant is one of their common names. Their habitats include dry rocky regions semi-tropical climates that experience regular frost and, of course, the humid rainforest. They also range in size from near microscopic to the large strap-like plants more typical of bromeliads. Tillandsias are most prolific and most characterized of bromeliads. They hydrate via leaves studded with micro-hairs, so watering is often unnecessary especially in humid microclimates like the coast or near pools. Because they have few to no roots, just glue them to a tree and you're set.

Flowers can be small and insignificant, such as those from its most well known representative, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usenoides*) to neon-colored affairs that resemble lobster tails. Though Spanish moss will grow here, and given time will resemble scenes from *Forrest Gump*, our less humid, cooler conditions slow it down a bit.

Some of the plants you see at the local retailers mounted to driftwood are indeed *Tillandsias*, and with proper care, can turn into huge, colorful balls of reminiscent of creatures you can find in a 'B' movie. In the medium-size range, *Tillandsia fasciculata* and its numerous hybrids resemble an otherworldly type of mondo grass, with yellowish to rust colored leaves that eventually produce a branched bract-type inflorescence.

The large strap-leaved *Tillandsia imperialis*, as the name suggests, is near the top of the size-range for this genus. It sends out a long-lasting, towering, bright red flower spike about 20 inches long. Originating from high-altitude Mexico, we're fortunate that it prefers cooler subtropical conditions like we enjoy in southern California. There are hundreds and hundreds of species of *Tillandsias*, so have at it and have fun.

This article just scratches the surface of an extremely diverse plant family. In many ways, bromeliad aficionados are as passionate and devoted to these plants as people who study and collect another primarily epiphytic group—orchids. The two types of plants typically go hand-in-hand in terms of care, culture and their location in the biosphere. Though not as popular as orchids, bromeliads have their devotees worldwide—in fact, one of the primary bromeliad texts used by hobbyists is out of print in English, necessitating translating from the original German text.

Whether you prefer foliage, flowers or both, like I do, bromeliads are truly a plant that people from both camps can agree on. No matter what your persuasion, I've failed to meet anyone who can't find a few they like. The colors, flowers and ease with which they grow are rarely matched in the plant kingdom. If you are a flower person, you will appreciate the color the foliage adds to the garden in the cooler months. If you tend towards foliage, the flowers are a nice, long-lasting bonus. As more gardeners become aware of their possibilities, bromeliads can deliver more beauty to our gardens year-round.

To see and buy bromeliads attend the San Diego Bromeliad Society Study Group Show and Sale in Balboa Park on May 24 and 25. See Calendar for sale and society meeting information.

On The Cover: *Guzmania* 'Soledo' from Olive Hill Greenhouses, Fallbrook, CA. Photo: Rachel Cobb

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Ground Tested: Geraniums

Real-world testing of this season's most popular geraniums

By Jim Zemcik

By now, the big box stores and local nurseries have brought in new geraniums for spring and summer. You will most likely find plants from either Fischer/Goldsmith (*www.fischerusa.com*) or Oglevee/Ecke (*www.oglevee.com*), and I have ground tested most of them. There are some absolutely great new colors on some of the varieties but there are some things you should be careful of.

Ivy-zonals

Other than 'Santa Maria Centennial' you are most likely to see the Caliente series from Fischer. There are several of these: 'Caliente Coral', 'Caliente Deep Red', 'Caliente Fire', 'Caliente Lavender' and 'Caliente Rose'. The hype on these is that as ivy-zonal crosses they have excellent edema resistance. That part of the story is true. Unfortunately the folks at Fischer/Goldsmith didn't test them for rust.

The Caliente series are the only plants I have tested that rust worse than the stellars, which is too bad because these are very pretty plants. Apparently they have more zonal in them than ivy. While they bloom profusely, the length of bloom period is not good. That is surprising because in our climate both ivys and zonals tend to bloom all year long. The good news is that the colors are fabulous. If the colors entice you, be prepared to treat for rust on a continuous two-week cycle.

Recommendation: 'Santa Maria Centennial' does not rust. If rust is a problem for you, avoid the Calientes.

Ivies

Although aggressive marketing has resulted in better availability of Fisher varieties, there are no better ivy geraniums on the market than the Global series from Oglevee/Ecke. These plants redefine ivy geraniums. Double, tight growing and compact (rarely more that about 14-inch stems) these plants all have long-lasting double blooms with a good color range. They don't get very "ropey" and make excellent container plants. I have had some of these for over three years and have never cut or pinched any of them. They don't need it. Series names are: 'Light Lilac', 'Merlot', 'Orchid', 'Pink Pearl', 'Purple', 'Red', 'Red Peppermint', 'Rose', 'Ruby Red', 'Salmon Rose', 'Sangria', 'Soft Pink', 'Stars and Stripes', 'Classic Lilac' and 'Neon Cherry'.

If you have never seen 'Merlot' you need to find it—a dark, almost black bloom. I have had more growers I know voluntarily praise this plant than any other plant I have ever known. It is amazing. However, there are some duds here. The harlequin-type blooming plants 'Sangria' and 'Red Peppermint' are marginal. 'Stars and Stripes' tends to maintain without reversion but my experience is that all ivies of this type don't stay stable long.

Recommendation: Good, modern ivies.

Stellar

There are no good stellar series available commercially. Oglevee/Ecke markets the Starlette series and Fisher markets the Grafitti series. Ho hum.

You should ignore these, with two exceptions: 'Vancouver Centennial', which only sells because it is an outstanding fancy leaf variety, and 'Kens Gold', which is not commercially available but does not appear to rust—the only stellar I know of with rust resistance.

Recommendation: Don't waste your money. If you are willing to fight the rust problem with stellars, there are some really nice looking plants on the hobbyist side. Buy those.

Zonals

There is nothing particularly noteworthy in zonals. There are no leaders in this field. They all look alike. In rust-prone areas they will all rust equally regardless of origin. The best growing plants for size, shape and bloom cycle in our climate seem to be the Maesto series from Oglevee/Ecke but that is a point of information, not a recommendation.

Recommendation: If you like it, buy it.

Regals

No competition here. Oglevee/Ecke does the best commercial breeding in regals, and those are probably the plants you will see in the nursery. If you haven't tried the newer regals, you should. Smaller growing, these plants require very little pruning and tend to bloom year-round in our climate. Whitefly resistance is very good. When Oglevee decided to concentrate on these they made a good decision.

Recommendation: Well worth your consideration.

Angels

There is a small but growing commercial interest in angels. The problem here is that until recently the bloom period has been relatively short, and because many are difficult to root, the big guys have found them too expensive to produce. The largest selection of these is probably available through Geraniaceae (*www.geraniaceae.com*) but there are not a lot of good ones, just a lot of interesting ones. Grandview (*www.gvgeranium.com*) has had good success in mass marketing some of the newer, better varieties and those are generally sold through Home Depot and Wal-Mart, so you might want to watch those stores. Varieties like 'Janet Wasko' and 'Joanne Weeks' have a long bloom cycle.

Recommendation: These are delightful plants but keep in mind that despite the smaller leaves and foliage, these plants tend to get rather large. In pots they should be planted in eight inch or larger. In the ground they will get several feet in diameter.

Ivy-zonals

PHOTO: ANN BYRNE, FRIENDS OF SANTA MARIA BOTANICAL GARDEN

'Santa Maria Centennial'

Zonals

PHOTO: JIM ZEMCIK

'Patriot Salmon'

Ivies

PHOTO: JIM ZEMCIK

'Global Soft Pink'

Regals

PHOTO: JIM ZEMCIK

'Elegance Imperial'

Stellar

PHOTO: JIM ZEMCIK

'Vancouver Centennial'

Angels

PHOTO: JIM ZEMCIK

'Tina Piburn'

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SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for May and June 2008

May Events

MAY 3

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB SPRING FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE **Two Day Event**

Celebrate our country through flowers and plant materials at the "This Land is our Land" themed show and sale. There will be a horticultural segment with a magnificent display of garden roses and a premium blooming plant sale with spring colors and baskets.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sat. May 3) 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.(Sun. May 4)
Where: 17040 Avenida Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe, CA
More Information: 858-756-1554

SAN DIEGO SOCIETY IRIS SHOW AND PLANT SALE **Two Day Event**

Come and enjoy a diverse selection of irises at this fun weekend event.
When: 12:00 m - 4:00 p.m. (Saturday, May 3), 10:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sunday, May 4)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Margaret Yorio, 868-748-2280

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY WILD ANIMAL PARK SHOW AND PLANT SALE **Two Day Event**

Experience epiphyllums in a theme park setting, with this weekend show at San Diego's famed Wild Animal Park.
When: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Saturday, May 3) and (Sunday, May 4)
Where: Nairobi Village, Wild Animal Park, 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegozoo.org/wap/*

VISTA FLOWER 74TH STANDARD FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE **Two Day Event**

Get your fill of flowers at the Vista Flower 74th annual Flower Show and Plant Sale.
When: 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (Saturday May 3), 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Sunday, May 4)
Where: Brengle Terrace Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

MAY 4

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB

The San Diego Bonsai Club has two monthly offerings: a 9:00 a.m. classes for beginner and novice members, and a 10:30 a.m. meeting and program.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

MAY 5

PALOMAR DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FLORAL DESIGN FORUM

Learn to create beautiful and simple designs, as four talented designers compete against each other and the clock in the "Flower Power" competition. Open to those interested in floral design; there is an $8 fee.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St, Carlsbad, CA
More information: *www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs*, **760-749-4976**

MAY 6

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!
When: Novice Class 6:30 p.m., General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting) Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

MAY 10

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY – MABEL CORWIN BRANCH MEETING

Come listen to educational speakers focused on begonias and other shade loving plants, and much more.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oak Crest Park Dr. Encinitas, CA
More information: President Denise Knobloch, 6199-409-4997

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

This is the SDC&SS's monthly meeting. Please come and learn about these interesting plants!
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdcss.com*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MOTHER'S DAY PLANT AND CUTTINGS SALE AND SHOW **Two Day Event**

Expand your garden by picking up a new epiphyllum at the Saturday pre-sale sale, then return on Sunday and make Mother's Day special with a visit to the annual epiphyllum show and sale. This year's theme is "Epies, a Pirate Treasure."
When: Sale 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Saturday, May 10, Sunday May, 11),
***Show* 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sunday, May 11)**
Where: Patio B, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY 11TH ANNUAL DESERT PILGRIMAGE **Two Day Event**

Join the SDRS for a fun-filled and rose-filled weekend to the high and low desert during their annual event. Highlights include Cliff Orent's garden in Morongo Valley with over 5,000 roses, the beautiful grounds of the Empire Polo Club in Indio with thousands of roses, the Living Desert in Palm Desert and the private garden of top exhibitor Gary Bulman.
When: May 10 (Saturday) and May 11 (Sunday)
Where: Please contact for details.
More information: *www.sdrosocietyorg*

MAY 12

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Join SDHS as they host a special evening with Ken Druse titled "Making More Plants: Adventures in Horticulture!" Learning how to propagate your plants is the only path to plant insurance, and Ken has a number of helpful tips. Copies of Ken's books, *Making More Plants: The Science, Art, and Joy of Propagation* and *Ken Druse: The Passion for Gardening* will be available for sale. Tickets are $15 for SDHS members and $20 for non-members. Please join them for this exciting event.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego
More Information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*, **760-295-7089**

MAY 13

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Monthly meetings are designed to educate by providing interesting and diversified programs. May's program is "Bats," by Francine Spears.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA.
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for raffle and enjoy!
When: 7:00 p. m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdgeranium.org*, **Brenda Archer, 619-447-8243**

MAY 14

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN TOUR AND PLANT SALE

Come join the Bonita Valley Garden Club on their "Bonita in Bloom" Garden Tour and Plant Sale. Six special Bonita gardens are presented to delight you, plus a revisit of the Iris farm. Don't miss our plant sale. A $10 boxed lunch is optional—reservations required. Pre-sale tickets are $15; day of the event tickets are $20. Contact the club for reservations and details.
When: 10:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
More Information: Vera Matthias, 619-479-0429

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Pauline Sechi, notable Fallbrook floral designer, presents "Designs from Down Under."

Pauline demonstrates creative, abstract floral designs using Australian plant material and items found in our gardens.
When: 10:45 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Come join the Ramona Garden Club for refreshments, door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona, CA
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

San Diego Epiphyllum Society Meeting
This SDES General Meeting will feature a mini flower show.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

MAY 15

BERNARDO GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come join the Bernardo Garden Club as they host Gisele Schoniger, Category Manager for Kellogg Garden Products. An inspiring and talented speaker, Gisele specializes in organic gardening, and will be presenting on the top ways to keep gardens at their best as the summer begins.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Rancho Bernardo Library Community Room (upstairs), 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.bernardogardners.org*

MAY 17

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY SHOW **Two Day Event**
Add to your knowledge of geraniums by attending this special weekend event.
When: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Where: Patios A and B, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
For more information: President Brenda Archer, 619-447-8243

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY ROSE SHOW **Two Day Event**
Experience the majesty of roses with the SDRS's 81st Annual Rose Show. The show is open to the public. There is a $4 admission fee, though children 17 and under and military in uniform are admitted free. All rose show entries must be submitted between 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17.
When: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday (May 17), 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday (May 18) Where: Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

SAN DIEGO ZOO SPRING GARDEN CELEBRATION **Two Day Event**
Join the San Diego Zoo's Horticulture Department as they host their spring garden celebration, "Garden of Senses." Learn to focus on how the five senses are stimulated by gardens and plants. See beautiful foliage and flowers, smell fragrant blossoms, listen to the wind rustling through trees and bamboo, feel bark beneath your fingertips and enjoy tasty food and beverages. Free botanical bus tours between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. will highlight the impact plants have on our senses. There will also be self-guided walking tours showcasing the diverse plant selection at the Zoo.
When: 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p. m
Where: San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegozoo.org*, **Gail Case 619-231-1515 X4298**

MAY 19

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY ROSE MEETING
Join the SDRS for their monthly meeting–visitors are always welcome. This month, enjoy the Little Rose Show–Exhibiting 101, and learn a number of tips to enhance the beauty of your blossoms. The May meeting features a potluck dinner; please bring a dish to share.
When: 6:00 p.m. mini rose show, 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner; 7:30 p.m. Meeting and Program.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

MAY 20

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Come join the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter at 6:30 p.m. for a mixer and sales table, then stay for the 7:30 meeting. Free to the public; everyone is welcome.
When: 6:30 pm. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *http://cnpssd.org*

MAY 21

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION BUS TOUR
Join the San Diego Floral Association on our bus tour to the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA and experience the brand new Garden of Flowing Fragrance. You can also see the world famous painting, 'Blue Boy' in the gallery and take in the fantastic rose gardens, children's garden and more. The price for SDFA members is $45; the price for non-members is $55.
When: 9:00 a.m. departure – approximate 6 p.m. return
Where: Contact for more details
More Information: *www.sdfloral.org*, **619-232-5762**

MAY 24

BROMELIAD SOCIETY STUDY GROUP SHOW AND SALE **Two Day Event**
Expand your garden with a bromeliad, bought at this fun and informative weekend event.
When: 10:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sat. May 24), 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sun. May 25)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President Chuck Largin, 619-479-5500

MAY 27

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The FGCM meeting features programs, speakers, workshops and study groups covering a variety of garden related topics, giving members the opportunity to expand their knowledge and interests.
When: 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA
More Information: *www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub*

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Come join this dedicated group and learn more about this stunning perennial plant.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come join the BOGC for the latest in organic gardening.
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Bonita/Sunnyside Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
More Information: President Jane Campbell, 619-741-8448

MAY 28

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:30pn.m. – 9:00p.m.
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackson St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Learn more about this fun plant at the SDBS's monthly meeting.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Join CRFG for their monthly meeting. Learn how to select and grow rare fruit in San Diego.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.crfgsandiegio.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL MEETING
Come learn about Japanese flower arrangement, as demonstrated by Ohara School. There is no fee to attend.
When: 10 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MAY 31

EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY SHOW **Two Day Event**
Learn more about exotic plants at this weekend show.
When: 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. (Saturday May 31), 10:00a.m. – 4:00 p. m. (Sunday, June 1)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdbgf.org*

June Events

JUNE 1

HON NON BO MEETING

Learn more about Vietnamese miniature mountain landscape at this Hon Non Bo Association bi-monthly event.
When: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Club President, Brenda Storey, 858-689-0957

JUNE 3

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!
When: Novice Class 6:30 p. m, General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting), Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

JUNE 6

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The Vista Garden Club Monthly Meeting begins at noon, and the program begins about 1:15 p.m. June is the installation meeting.
When: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00: p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

JUNE 7

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT PLANT SHOW AND SALE

****Two Day Sale****

Enjoy all things spiny and succulent at this weekend show and sale.
When: Plant Show 10:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Saturday June 1), 10:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sunday June 2), Sale 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Saturday June 1), 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sunday June 2)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdcss.com*

JUNE 8

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB

The San Diego Bonsai Club has two monthly offerings: a 9:00 a.m. classes for beginner and novice members, and a 10:30 a.m. meeting and program.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

JUNE 10

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Monthly meetings are designed to educate by providing interesting and diversified programs. June will be a bar-b-que, and installation meeting.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA
More information: *www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs*, **760-749-4976**

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for raffle and enjoy!
When: 7:00 p. m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdgeranium.org*, **Brenda Archer, 619-446-8243**

JUNE 11

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

June is the installation luncheon meeting; the program is to be determined, so please contact the group for details.
When: 9:30 a, m.
Where: San Diego Country Club, L Avenue, Chula Vista, CA
More Information: President Lynne Batchelor, 868-451-6764

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The June meeting for the PLGC features its annual luncheon and installation of new officers.
When: To be determined; please contact group for details.
Where: To be determined; please contact group for details.
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB

Come join the Ramona Garden Club for refreshments, door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona, CA
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDES for their monthly meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

JUNE 14

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

Join the San Diego Floral Association as we set out on a new summer garden tour, featuring three historic gardens in Mission Hills and three in Point Loma. Ticket will be $15 prior to the event, and $20 on the day of the event. Please contact SDFA for tickets, or visit one of these locations after April 1: Walter Andersen Nurseries, Mission Hills Nursery, Andersen Nursery, Kniffing Nursery and Weidner Nursery.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Where: Contact for more details
More Information: *www.sdfloral.org*, **619-232-5762**

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY – MABEL CORWIN BRANCH MEETING

Come listen to educational speakers focused on begonias and other shade loving plants, and much more.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oak Crest Park Drive, Encinitas, CA
More information: President Denise Knobloch, 619-409-4997

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR **Three Week Event**

The San Diego County Fair is the answer to your garden questions. See educational and exciting display gardens, and a flower show extraordinaire. Learn about the San Diego Floral Association or one of San Diego's many Garden Clubs or Plant Societies at the pavilion. Maybe attend the Breakfast at the Fair. Shop for premium plants and special gardening tools, too!
When: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, June 14—July 6 (closed Monday June 16 and Monday June 23)
Where: Del Mar Fair Grounds, Del Mar, CA
More Information: *www.sdfair.com*

JUNE 16

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDRS for a special meeting at Barona Casino. We will be visiting their fabulous new rose gardens including the David Austin Garden.
When: 7:00 p.m.– 9:30 p.m.
Where: Contact group for details
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

JUNE 17

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Learn about "The Authentic Garden" with the author and Director of the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, Claire Sawyers. For see more details about the event, see page 7.
When: 7:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdfloral.org*, **619-232-5762**

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

Come join the CNPS San Diego Chapter at 6:30 p.m. for a mixer and sales table, then stay for the 7:30 meeting. Meeting is free to the public.
When: 6:30 pm. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *http://cnpssd.org*

JUNE 19

BERNARDO GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

This is the Bernardo Gardeners Garden Club's Installation Luncheon, and new officers installed. The club will honor local garden businesses for their support.
When: To be determined, please contact club
Where: Contact club for more details
More information: *www.bernardogardners.org*

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING

The San Diego Fern Society meeting is an opportunity for people to study ferns together and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdfern.com*

JUNE 21

MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL PLANT SHOW
Grow your garden with plants selected at this special plant sale.
When: 10:00a.m.– 3:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: 858-694-2860

JUNE 23

PALOMAR DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
This is the PD organizational meeting; contact group for details.
When: 9:30 a.m. coffee, 10:00 a.m. Meeting.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Director Jerry Thirolway, 858-755-3284

JUNE 24

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Come join this dedicated group and learn more about this stunning perennial plant.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President David J Tooley, 858-672-2593

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come join the BOGC for the latest in organic gardening.
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Bonita/Sunnyside Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
More Information: President Jane Campbell, 619-741-8448

JUNE 25

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:30pn.m.– 9:00p.m.
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackson St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Learn more about this fun plant at the SDBS's monthly meeting.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.htm*

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Join CRFG for their monthly meeting. Learn how to select and grow rare fruit in San Diego.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.crfgsandiegio.org*

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court , Poway, CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*, **619-660-0614, x10**

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens , 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA
More Information: *http://thegarden.org*

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free.
When: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego, CA
More Information: *http://cnpssd.org*

BUENA CREEK GARDENS FREE GARDEN TOUR
Join Steve Brigham for this free, monthly garden tour.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., second Saturday of each month
Where: Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Rd. San Marcos, CA
More Information: *www.buenacreekgardens.com*

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden, There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D. .
When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.niwa.org*

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10 a.m., every Saturday starting January 12
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More Information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

Continued on page 37

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To Promote The Knowledge And Appreciation Of Horticulture And Floriculture In The San Diego Region.

GENERAL MEETINGS

2008

February 19
April 15
June 17
October 21
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President
Kay Harry

First Vice President
Lucy Warren

Second Vice President
Lynne Batchelor

Treasurer
John Sandy

Recording Secretary
Kathy Taylor de Murillo

Historian
Thea Gums

DIRECTORS
Term 2005-2008
Barbara Forrest
Cheryl Gaidmore

Term 2007-2010
Michelle Kownacki
Sandra Graff
Linda Lindgren

Connie Brown
Joanne Dossett
Connie Whitney
Amy R. Wood

Arrangers Guild Chair
Suzanne Michel

AFFILIATES:

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin 619-445-8352
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532

CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Kathy Puplava 858-576-3828
Box 9424, San Diego, CA 92169-0424
Website: *www.citybeautifulofsandiego.org*

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
Information: 949-499-5518
P. O. Box 742, Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
Email: *marshab@gte.net*

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Lao 619-232-2721
2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101-4792

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Dir: Jerry Thirloway 858-755-3284
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC
Exec. Dir.: Julian Duval 760-436-3036
P. O. Box 230005, Encinitas, CA 92023-0005

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
Pres: Victor Tongco 619-234-8901
2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101-4792

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Exec. Dir: Alexander Chuang 619-338-9888
404 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92101-6803

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Dept. 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
P. O. Box 120551, San Diego, CA 92112-0551

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Nancy Abernethy 760-742-1842
P. O. Box 876, Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
1st Wed - 10:30 am
Sep., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, North County Fair, Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY
Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-255-2501
1455 49th St., San Diego, CA 92102-2625
1st Sun - 9:00-11:00 a.m., Casa del Prado
Feb., Mar., Apr., Sep., Oct., Nov.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Librarian: Joan Endres 619-660-0614
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:
CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711 858-459-0316
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711

MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.
3089C Clairemont Drive #296 619-296-9687
San Diego, CA 92117-6802

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR, PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014-2216
Email: *flowershow@sdfair.com*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Vickie V. Driver 858-522-6760
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
Email: *vdriver@sdcwa.org*

JIM STELLUTI
CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST
1928 Madison Ave. 619-298-7641
San Diego, CA 92116-2722

GARDEN CLUBS:
ALPINE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carlette Anderson 619-445-5716
2451 Night Star Ct., Alpine, CA 91901-1449
1st Fri -10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS
Pres: Adele Kelly 858-673-8728
PO Box 27179, San Diego, CA 92198-1179
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Lynne Batchelor 858-451-6764
16048 Caminito Aire Puro
San Diego, CA 92128-3557
2nd Wed - 9:30 a.m., Bonita Public Library

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Pat Cooley 437-8227
950 Olive Ave., Coronado, CA 92118-2710
4th Mon - 9:30 a.m., Winn Room, Coronado Public Library

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Anne Smith 760-931-9863
3358 Don Diablo Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92010-3914

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
P.O. Box 57, Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
3rd Thu -11:45 a.m., Norman Park Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Nancy Griffith 619-435-8079
P.O. Box 180188, Coronado, CA 92118-0188

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jeanne Bowers
P.O. Box 180476, Coronado, CA 92178-0476
4th Thu - 9:30 a.m., Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Evelyn Kent 760-749-5078
13224 Blueberry Hill La.
Valley Center, CA 92082-0123
2nd Tue - 12:30 p.m., Valley Center Com. Hall

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Judy Farnan 760-451-0792
P. O. Box 1702, Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
3rd Wed -7:00 p.m., FPUD Bldg. on Mission Rd.
Last Thu - 9:30 a.m., Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chair: Mrs. Louisa Pillsbury 858-551-4556
16049 Vista de Golf
San Diego, CA 92091-4340
2nd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Joan Blankenship 858-488-5618
5171 Crystal Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037-7951
3rd Tue - 1:30 p.m., L.J.Lutheran Church

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Vernon Bluhm 760-745-1219
710 W. 13th Ave. G118
Escondido, CA 92025
Email: *vbluhm@cox.net*
4th Mon. 2:00 p.m. Rancho Bernardo Library, 2nd floor

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3919 Portola Place
San Diego, CA 92103-2705
3rd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
Co-Presidents: Felicia Moscinski 760-726-4047
809 Olive Ave., #40, Vista, CA 92083-3373
Don Nelson 760-630-3580
952 Park Hill Drive
Escondido, CA 92025-4853
Email: *donnelson12sbcglobal.net*
3rd Sat - 12:45 p.m., MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs)
Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Meredith French 619-260-1588
San Diego, CA 92103-5502
4th Wed - 6:30 p.m., Mission Hills United Church of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw St.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Nancy Hurlburt 619-223-3315
P.O. Box 8382, San Diego, CA 92166-0382
Co Pres. Margaret Cook 619-223-0253
3930 Del Mar St. San Diego, CA 92107-3735
2nd Wed - 10:00 a.m., Portuguese Hall
2818 Avenida de Portugal

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Co.Presidents
Rosemary Anderson 858-672-0459
14908 Satanas St.San Diego, CA 92129-1529
Lucille Rosicky 858-672-6225
14809 Priscilla St. San Diego, CA 92129-1524
2nd Wed - 9:00 a.m., Lake Poway Pavilion

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Teri Schmidt 760-789-8774
P.O. Box 1412, Ramona, CA 92065
2nd Wed - 12:00 noon Ramona Women's Club

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carol Wells 619-749-8325
1818 Sonetts Dr., El Cajon, CA 92019
3rd Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Hal Sexton 858-756-1554
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marj Myers 619-448-3613
9241 Galston Dr., Santee, CA 92071-1510
4th Tue - 9:30 a.m., Homes of Members

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Pres: Susi Torre-Bueno 760-295-7089
P. O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June
Surfside Race Place
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd.

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Geri Thirloway 858-3284
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92078-1620
4th Wed - 9:30 a.m., Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Ann Craig 858-454-4117
1802 Amalfi St., La Jolla, CA 92037-3803
4th Thu., 10:00 a.m.,
Torrey Pines Christian Church

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Barbara Weiler 760-630-0383
2920 Harris Dr., Vista, CA 92084-1418
1st Fri - 12:00 noon, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
10411 San Carlos Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-1034

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Janet Judge 858-759-2477
P.O. Box 2248
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-2248
4th Wed - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689
2822 Walker Dr., San Diego, CA 92123-3056

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
San Diego, CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 a.m., La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Akiko Bourland 858-273-5899
2936 Havasupai Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117-1641

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
10830 Montego Dr., San Diego, CA 92124-1421

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
2829 Flax Dr., San Diego, CA 92154-2160

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Patty Regan 760-295-0484
2000 S. Melrose Dr. #119, Vista, CA 92081
4th Mon - 10:30 a.m. - Vista Library,
700 Eucalyptus Ave.

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
4505 Long Branch Ave.
San Diego, CA 92107-2333
2nd Tue - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Denise Knobloch 619-409-4997
465 4th Avenue #3, Chula Vista, CA 91910
2nd Sun - 1:30 p.m., except May & Aug.
Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
6040 Upland St., San Diego CA 92114-1933
Last Sat - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
9976 Dauntless St., San Diego, CA 92126-5514
1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)
10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information: 619-699-8776
P. O. Box 40037, San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun. - 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado, Rm. 101
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting July/August 2007 | 37

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Joann Dossett 619-299-4115
2871 Brant St., San Diego, CA 92103-6119
Email: *jdoss12345@aol.com*
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Nancy Groves 858-453-6486
(weekends only)
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
P. O. Box 83996, San Diego, CA 92138-3966
2nd Sat., 10:00 a.m., Room 104,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033
4th Sat - 12:15 p.m., Joslyn Sr. Ctr., Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020
P. O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659
6114 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037-6702
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov. through Apr. ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way, San Diego, CA 92129-1116
Email: *djsj21643@aol.com*
4th Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Betsy Hamblin 858-483-5584
851 Opal St., San Diego, CA 92109-1780
1st Sat. - 10:00 a.m., Sep. through May
Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mildred V. Mikas 858-485-5414
P. O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127
Website: *www.epiphyllum.com*
2nd Wed. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017
3141 Cabrillo Mesa Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-2945
3rd Thu. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Chair: David Silverstein
4722 Coronado Ave., San Diego, CA 92107-3543
4th Thu. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Nov. & Dec. ONLY, 3rd Thu.

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Brenda Archer 619-447-8243
6404 Zena Dr., San Diego, CA 92115-7026
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Copresidents: Judy Dunning and Cindi Lohry
619-579-0222
Meetings on the 1st Wed. of every month at
7:00 p.m., Balboa Park
Casa del Prado, Room 101

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Leon Vogel 951-677-5587
26440 St. Ives Ct., Murrieta, CA 92563-6087
2nd Sun. - 1:00 p.m.
Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
4512 Sunnyslope Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119
1st Thu. - 7:30 p.m. -
Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Carolyn Martus 760-434-5033
P. O. Box 121390 *www.cnpssd.org*
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
3045 Felicita Rd., Escondido, CA 92029-6725
4th Mon. - 2:00 p.m. - Rancho Bernardo
Library, 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY
A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM
SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
Pres: Loren Ellsworth 858-748-8355
14730 Dash Way, Poway, CA 92064-2914
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Genie Hammond 619-426-6831
P. O. Box 161020, San Diego, CA 92176-1020
1st Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jane Campbell 619-741-8448
Email: *kreepyhollow@gmail.com*
4th Tuesday of the month- 6:30 p.m. - Meeting
7:00, Bonita/Sunnyside Library Community
Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795
P. O. Box 20553, El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
4TH Sun. - 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Feb. through Oct., Casa del Prado, Room 102
Email: *c.herzog@att.net*

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Kristi Sutherlin 619-447-4131
2007 Muira Lane El Cajon, CA 92109
Email: *ksuthe4187@aol.com*
www.eastcountyrosesociety.com
1st Sun - 2:00 p.m., except July & Aug.
Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Ruth Tiffany 619-462-5753
6705 Maury Dr., San Diego, CA 92119-2020
www.sdrosesociety.org
3rd Mon. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Jan. & Feb. - 4th Mon.
No meetings July & Aug.

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE
P. O. Box 120505 FAX 619-223-TREE
San Diego, CA 92112-0505
Email: *adoglover1@juno.com*
4th Tue. - 6:30 p.m., 743 Imperial Ave.

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704
1302 Avocado Rd., Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
3rd Sun - Apr. through Oct.
Website: *groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden*
Email: *dc@pondplants.com*

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*,
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Call 619-232-5762
Email: *membership@sdfloral.org* **Deadline for July/August issue: May 10, 2008.**
Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-cardsized ad at half price.
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Calendar continued

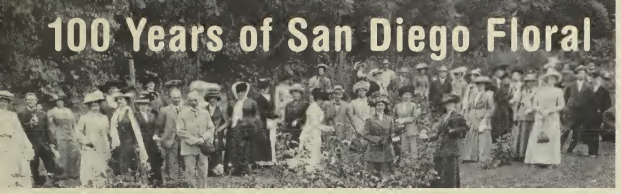
In Season

Not sure what to expect at a winter farmer's market? Here are just some of the items that you may find being sold from the stalls in May and June. (For more information about San Diego County Certified Farmer's Markets—and to find out the date and location of the market nearest you—please visit *www.sdfarmbureau.org*.)

MAY: Avocados, beans, carrots, cherimoyas, cucumbers, grapefruit, lemons, lettuce, mushrooms, peas, potatoes, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, sweet onions, tomatoes, Valencia oranges, various cut and potted flowers, various nuts

JUNE: Apricots, avocados, blackberries, boysenberries, cherimoyas, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, grapefruit, lemons, lettuce, mushrooms, peaches, peppers, plums, potatoes, raspberries, sweet onions, tomatoes, Valencia oranges, various cut and potted flowers, various nuts

CONTACT US! Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email *calendar@sdfloral.org* with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Jul/Aug 2008 issue is May 10, 2008; the deadline for the Sep/Oct issue is July 10, 2008.



From The Archives

Garden Tours Snapshots of early garden tours from the pages of *California Garden* magazine. A tradition revived with the Centennial tour in 2007 and our new tour in June of 2008.

Out-Door Meeting at Rosecroft
AUGUST 1914

The Floral Association was entertained at Rosecroft, Point Loma, the home of President and Mrs. A.D. Robinson, Tuesday afternoon, August 4, the first out-door meeting of the summer.

A boat load went over on the Point Loma Ferry to Roseville, and were met by autos, which conveyed them up the winding road to Rosecroft. Many others went over in their own machines.

The guests wandered over the ten acres of winding paths, cozy nooks, rose-covered arbors, spreading trees, lath-houses filled with ferns, glass-houses with their plant aristocracy, wonderful beds of dahlias, others of annuals and perennials, and down through little jungles which hinted of the tropics.

It was almost impossible to imagine the scene six years ago, when the self-same site was a stubble field. Thinking of what had been and what now is, it would seem that a miracle had been performed. It is not natural that such a transformational scene should take place in such a short period of time.

Floral Association Visits Mrs. Strong at Ramona
JUNE 1927

Once again the members of the San Diego Floral Association have had a joyous and illuminating garden experience, for on June 7th. Mrs. Amy Strong kept open house and garden at her beautiful estate near Ramona, called Mt. Woodson Farm.

In the garden she has exercised her own taste and with Miss Session's experienced help, showed the garden makers of the Association, what can be done with local materials up in the mountains. The floral possibilities are very different in the mountain and lake regions from those of the coast, so within a few short hours drive San Diegans can have a wide and most varied group of flowers, shrubs and trees to delight in. Here Mrs. Strong has in fine perfection many of the native shrubs such as Philadelphus, Ceonothus, broom, Fremontia, Rhus, Mimulus, lupine, White Sage, Collinsia penstemon and more other lovely wild things of the earth. There were also splendid examples of English and Dutch holly, creeping aloes and the rare Juniper Virginia *viredis corumbose*, scarlet oak, and many decorative trees.

After the hundred or more guests who had made the drive from San Diego, in the way of a "garden pilgrimage", had enjoyed a picnic lunch beneath some fine oaks. Miss Sessions gave a talk about the different plants of note growing on Mt. Woodson Farm.

Marston Garden Open
MAY 1940

The annual garden party at the Marston House will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 25th.
Coming earlier this year, the garden will be at the height of bloom, so it should have special interest for member of the Floral Association and their friends.

There will be talks on flower arrangement in the loggia, just off the formal garden. Miss Alice Greer will give one of these demonstrations, illustrating her discussion with one of her superb compositions.

A new feature of the day will be walking tours about the beautifully landscaped grounds, led by Mrs. John Clark, who will point out favorite vistas and choice specimens, with names and history.

The Floral Association Visits Miss Session's Garden
APRIL 1928

The undulating slopes of Soledad Terrace back of Pacific Beach, reveal a material manifestation of a dream come true if you please, in the home of Miss K. O. Sessions. For so many years this wonder woman has been making others hearts rejoice in the creation of home gardens, has been helping others realize their dreams of beauty. Now this same satisfaction has come to her. In her ever generous spirit she opens the doors of her home and garden for others to share with her.

Last Saturday, between two and three hundred wandered at will seeing what can be done on a barren slope in a year and a half's time. Under the curved pergola, connecting the Italian tiled porch with a large lath-house, a naturalistic planting of tulips, narcissus, ranunculus, schianthus nods in the breezes beside the stepping atones and looks up to a pleasing mixture of vines overhead. The begonia chereri joins hands with a gorgeous Bouganvillia Lateritia – a mass of bloom which is the exact shade of Bouganvillia Crimson Lake only the flowers seem more full.

Garden Tours Planned for Exposition Patrons
MAY 1935

San Diego as host to America's Exposition this year will have a great percentage of visitors than ever before. San Diego has a reputation for garden hospitality. Each season, through its two major floral organizations, the floral Association and the local brand of the Amerlcan Rose Society, a number of lovely gardens are open for receptions. The listed gardens were: Marston, Ogden, Evans, Wangenheim, Hamilton. Coffroth, Campbell, Copley, Burnham, Scripps, Sessions, Marshall, Harrison and Bingham.

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Danielle in the Carlsbad Flower Fields photo - Linda Olsen

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